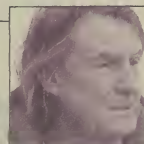


Syphilis rate grows among gay men
Outbreak in Palm Springs concerns officials gearing up for White Party.
page 3

Pajama party
Sleep-over at Women's Building to protest hate.
page 12



Phone call from Hell
Gay director Joel Schumacher on his thriller 'Phone Booth.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 14 • 3 April 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

CA health officials enlist help of gay sex club owners

by Matthew S. Bajko

Ever since San Francisco closed down the gay bathhouses in the 1980s, operators of commercial sex venues have been wary when public health officials have come calling.

So when officials from the state Office of AIDS decided to convene a conference last week with owners and representatives of gay sex clubs and bathhouses in the Bay Area, most thought the worst. With rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases on the rise, some feared health officials were targeting the sex clubs as part of the problem.

To their surprise, when they sat down for two days of discussions at the Drake Hotel, they discovered that state health officials had instead called for the meeting in order to discern how the commercial sex venues could assist them in stemming the rising rates of HIV and STDs.

"During this meeting I must have heard from health officials at least 10 times, 'We are not interested in closing you down. We are interested in working with you,'" said Buzz Bense, owner of Eros. "What was most notable to me is the spirit of cooperation."

Jeff Kant, health education and information director at Steamworks in Berkeley, said the meeting was an important attempt by state and local health department officials to foster a more meaningful dialogue than those held in the past.

"It was a real genuine effort to enlist everybody to try to respond to whatever issues threaten the LGBT community," said Kant. "We need to establish a closer working relationship while still honoring somehow the el-

page 14 ►

Gay AWOL Marine seeks conscientious objector status

by Zak Szymanski

When United States Marine Corps reservist Stephen Funk turned himself in to his marine base in San Jose on Tuesday, April 1, it was to face the consequences of going AWOL, and to publicly announce his application for conscientious objector status due to his moral opposition to the war in Iraq.

"I don't think the president's pursuit of this war is a very moral or godly thing," Funk told reporters this week.

Funk's 4th Landing Support Battalion received deployment orders to Iraq in February; he did not report for duty, he said, because he had grown increasingly uncomfortable with the idea of taking human lives.

Responding to claims that he was cowardly or an opportunist, Funk has stood up for the American right to act in accordance to one's beliefs.

"It isn't moral to kill someone just because you signed a contract," he said just hours before turning himself in. Fellow soldiers who are also morally opposed to killing, he said, should know that conscientious objector status is an option.

Funk, 20, viewed his enlistment at the age of 19 last year, he said, as an opportunity for growth and camaraderie, not combat.

"They don't really advertise that they kill

people," said Funk, whose father is a Vietnam War veteran.

"War wasn't a part of it at all for me. I never even thought about it," he explained to reporters. "I thought it would be like the Boy Scouts."

In fact, the U.S. Marine Corps is a lot like the Boy Scouts, particularly for people like

Stephen Funk. Both organizations actively ban gay members, and Funk is an openly gay man.

But Funk's sexuality, according to his attorney Steve Collier, who is a member of the National Lawyer's Guild Military Law Task Force and an attorney at San Francisco's Ten-

page 11 ►



Stephen Funk speaks at a press conference before turning himself in to Marine officials in San Jose Tuesday.

Jane Philomen, Clearlake

Gays voice support for war

by Cynthia Laird

There are gays in San Francisco who support the war in Iraq – it's just not easy to find them.

Last week the *Bay Area Reporter* received a call from a gay city resident who was upset with coverage of the antiwar protesters. "There are plenty of gay people in support of the war," stated the man, who did not want his name used because he feared retaliation from the progressive left. "I am against a regime that is against gay people."

In pursuit of finding gays supportive of the war, the *B.A.R.* went to a hastily arranged pro-troops rally last Friday, March 28 at Justin Herman Plaza in downtown San Francisco. Billed as a nonpartisan, nonpolitical event, novice organizer Reed M. Benet told the gathering of about 200 people that he obtained a city permit so that he could hold a rally that those supporting U.S. troops could attend.

"We support the troops," Benet said. "We love you and we care about you."

Benet, a married father who lives in Marin County and works as a commercial real estate broker in the city, stated that his goal was sim-

page 15 ►



Several hundred supporters turn out Saturday, March 29 to back the war in Iraq.

Rick Gehlert

INSIDE

BAR Talk	40
Classifieds	19
Legal Transactions	16
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	38
Obituaries	17
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	26
Out & About	36
OutRight	10
Personals	46
Sports Complex	18
Transmissions	8

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

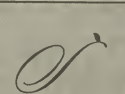


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Domestic partner bills survive first vote

by Matthew S. Bajko

Two bills that would expand the rights of the state's domestic partners survived their first vote Tuesday, April 1 when most Democratic members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee voted to approve both measures.

The first bill is AB205, the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act authored by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), which would provide registered domestic partners and their families nearly all the rights and responsibilities currently available only to married couples under state law, including child custody and child support obligations, community property, mutual responsibility for debt, and the right to make funeral arrangements.

The second bill is AB17, authored by Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), which would prohibit state agencies from contracting with businesses that discriminate in the benefits offered between employees with spouses and employees with registered domestic partners. The measure is modeled after San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance, which was the first in the country to require companies with city contracts to provide equal benefits to their gay employees.

Both bills passed on party-line votes. Each bill needed eight votes to pass the committee, which means that abstentions have the same effect as "no" votes. Every Democrat on the committee voted in favor of AB17 and AB205, with the exception of Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), who



CAPE's Geoffrey Kors

abstained on AB205.

The bills are the first of a package of measures introduced this year by the newly formed LGBT Legislative Caucus, comprised of the five openly gay and lesbian lawmakers serving in Sacramento. The bills are also being sponsored by the California Alliance for Pride and Equality.

"These bills are truly historic for California and for the nation," said Geoffrey Kors, executive director of CAPE, who testified at the hearing. "While they will not provide full equality to same-sex couples, these bills will provide registered domestic partners nearly all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities presently available only to spouses that the Legislature can grant under state law. No state except Vermont has done as much to recognize and meet the needs of LGBT families."

Along with CAPE, a broad coalition of organizations and individuals have expressed their support for expanding domestic partner rights, including the

American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Anti-Defamation League, the National Organization for Women, the California Commission on the Status of Women, the National Association of Social Workers, and Legal Services for Children.

Numerous state officials have also voiced their support for the domestic partner measure, including Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson (D-Los Angeles), and Senate President Pro Tem John Burton (D-San Francisco).

More than 50 California businesses, including Sempra Energy, Genentech Inc., and Clear Channel Outdoor, as well as the Greater San Diego Business Association, have written letters in support of the equal benefits provision in AB17.

"We have been able to pull together such a broad and diverse coalition of groups in support of these bills because they all recognize that fairness for LGBT families is one of the leading civil rights issues of our time," said Kors. "California must act this year to ensure that all families are given access to these basic protections under the law. We thank the legislators who supported equality and stood up to bigotry and hatred with their votes today."

The two bills now move on to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. If passed through that committee, the bills move on to the full Assembly, where 41 votes are needed to send them to the senate. The bills sponsors say they have more than 30 votes at this time and are continuing to lobby for more supporters. ▼

Supervisors panel takes on Halloween

by Joe Dignan

It's dark, but down the center of Market Street a line of sculptures stretches from Church to Castro streets. Illuminated in colors, the pieces move with the warming breezes of the Indian summer night, casting changing shadows into the throng of costumed revelers. A band is playing at one end of the street. At the other end, a crowd dances to a thumping beat, goblins with werewolves, witches with leathermen, girls with boys, boys with boys, girls with girls. Even in their frightening attire, all are polite and well behaved.

What's this - Burning Man West? If late night advocates have their way, it's this year's San Francisco Halloween celebration.

The vision of San Francisco's huge annual street party began to emerge at a special hearing of the Board of Supervisors City Services Committee, called by District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, to listen to community groups and figure out what to do about the Castro District Halloween celebration, which went terribly wrong last

year.

As many as 500,000 people converged on the neighborhood. Two hundred and fifty police officers in riot gear struggled to keep order as the crowd, fueled by alcohol, jostled and shoved its way to the corner of Castro and Market - only to discover that there were more crowds. There were 91 reported incidents of violence, including five stabbings, one critical. Dufty said that a 911 caller from the corner of Sanchez and Market screamed that someone was brandishing a running chain saw, another caller reported a reveler with a 14-inch Bowie knife, but police couldn't get to either place because the crowd was so dense. Twenty-eight people were arrested in what police said was the most violent Halloween in memory.

Dufty is asking that the city step in as the sponsor and organizer of the unmanaged, unpermitted event. Teddy Witherington, executive director of the LGBT Pride Celebration Committee, the city's biggest street party, said that he worries that without some management a crowd surge on the tightly packed streets could

cause multiple deaths.

"It has been viewed as an imminent prompt happening," Dufty said. "But it was so out of control last year, that the city is fortunate no one died. The potential for mayhem was so great, that we should approach this as a serious public safety problem."

Some of the suggestions about what to do for this year's event include establishing a perimeter to check for weapons and collect donations, providing entertainment to give the crowd something to do, and placing a ban on drinking in the streets.

Most observers, especially the Police Department, have said that drunkenness is the major cause of potentially dangerous behavior in the crowd, and so they want to enforce the open container laws that have been ignored in past years.

Deputy City Attorney John Kennedy said that while the SFPD may have jurisdiction over drinking in the streets, state law governs liquor sales, so the bars, restaurants, and liquor stores within the proposed perimeter would still be allowed to sell alcohol.

Vice cop and Inspector David
page 10 ►

SFFD steps up bar inspections

by Matthew S. Bajko

In recent weeks, several San Francisco gay bars have been visited by fire inspectors for allegedly violating their capacity limits. After recent tragedies at clubs in Chicago and Rhode Island left patrons trampled or burned to death, the fire department has increased its spot inspections of local watering holes.

The department maintains it is not only gay bars on its watch list. And incidents that left bar patrons standing on the street due to overcrowding inside were due in part to the San Francisco Fire Department receiving complaints from customers of the establishments.

"We act on these complaints on a regular basis," said Lieutenant Barry Wong, SFFD public information officer. "Sometimes, yes, it is a disgruntled patron who gets kicked out. But we are not there to do anyone's dirty work. We are there to make sure the public is

safe."

Patrons at the Lone Star Saloon, a South of Market bar popular with the bear crowd, found themselves cleared out of the Harrison Street bar two weeks ago. Acting on a complaint, fire officials popped in to the bar on a Friday night and found the bar had gone past its allowable 49 person capacity.

As one patron described the bar, "it's known as wall-to-wall fur. It gets so crowded you can't walk around there."

The problem with such a situation, explained Wong, is "if there are too many people in there, they aren't going to get out fast enough."

Once the fire department finds a bar has gone over its capacity, it clears out all the patrons and allows in only as many people as the bar is permitted.

"We try to get the cooperation of the building management. Number one, they have to stop letting people in," said Wong.

"Through attrition, when people decide to leave and it thins out to an acceptable level, they can let more people in."

If the fire department finds a bar continuously over its capacity limits, the department can fine the bar owners, and eventually, after numerous infractions, can close the bar down.

However, Wong said the department prefers to resolve the issue amicably.

"We are not trying to generate revenue for the city. We are trying to maintain a safe environment for the public," he said.

The manager of the Lone Star did not return calls seeking comment, and a man who answered the phone responded, "I don't think they want that publicized."

Greg Bronstein, owner of the Bar on Castro and Lalo's, recently found himself on the evening news when fire inspectors showed up at his "Hot Salsa Sunday" party due to a complaint of overcrowding at the Market Street restaurant and bar. Fire officials asked him to ensure he did not exceed the 125 person limit for the establishment.

With the weekly parties becoming wildly popular, Bronstein has hired two security people to control the crowds and ensure those waiting in line do not block other merchants' entryways.

"Gay bars are pretty crowded sometimes. They are just doing their job to make sure there is not over capacity," said Bronstein. "It definitely brings awareness to the issue of overcrowding. We all want to make sure the place is safe and exits are clear." ▼

Circuit party becomes catalyst for syphilis prevention efforts

by Matthew S. Bajko

In two weeks thousands of gay men from across the country will converge on Palm Springs for the annual White Party, a premiere destination on the gay party circuit, and that has state health officials worried that an already troubling outbreak of syphilis among men who have sex with men could escalate.

As the syphilis rate among gay men continues to grow in California's main metropolitan centers, it is now expanding to other areas. Riverside County, a large county in the south central part of the state, and in particular the city of Palm Springs, is seeing alarming trends in its rate of syphilis. In 2002, 54 early cases were diagnosed among residents of the Palm Springs area, compared to seven in 2001, three in 2000, and none in 1999.

While those numbers may

seem small compared to San Francisco, which reported nearly 500 cases of syphilis last year, health officials are concerned that with Palm Springs being a popular gay tourist destination there is the potential to spread the STD across the globe. Men who live in Palm Springs who tested positive for syphilis have reported having sexual partners from Washington D.C., Washington state, Nevada, Chicago, Arizona, New York City, Canada, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Germany.

Also alarming to health officials is Palm Springs' rate of syphilis among residents - 75.5 per 100,000 - which is one of the highest in the nation. For the state as a whole, 1,580 early syphilis cases were diagnosed in 2002 in California. This represents a 64 percent increase from the 965 cases diagnosed in 2001, and a 174 percent increase from the low point of 576 cases diagnosed in

page 15 ►



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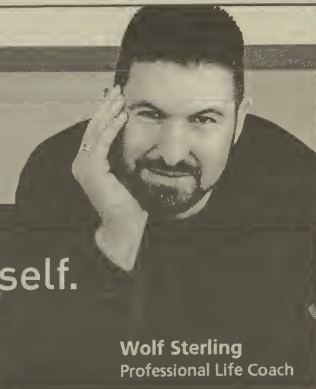
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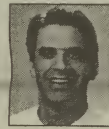
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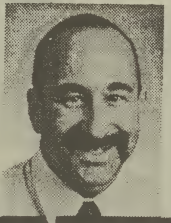

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Youth-led silent protest echoes LGBT oppression

by Zak Szymanski

Hear something? That's the sound of silence, scheduled to spread through schools and communities across the country on Wednesday, April 9.

The National Day of Silence—an annual event promoted by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network—encourages participants to keep their mouths shut in honor of the often-unheard victims of anti-LGBT harassment, discrimination, and violence.

Several schools in the Bay Area will take part in the event.

"There's usually a couple hundred schools that participate across the state every year," said Carolyn Laub, executive director of San Francisco's Gay-Straight Alliance Network, the largest youth-run organization in California. Some schools, noted Laub, are participating on different days depending on when their spring breaks are scheduled.

At San Jose High Academy, participating students and staff plan to demonstrate during school hours on Wednesday by remaining quiet and wearing tags that read, "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence, a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, as well as all other groups who face oppression. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?"

San Jose's event is sponsored by the school's new gay-straight alliance, and includes support and cooperation from other organizations on campus.

As is tradition, many participants will break the silence at the end of the day, often with more

sound than they're used to making. In Chicago, for instance, more than 500 people are expected to gather at the city's Thompson Center for a "Night of Noise" rally, to "help chip away at the walls that keep students with alternative lifestyles quiet," according to Brett Smiley, co-chair for GLSEN Chicago. "The rally is a chance for people to speak up, speak out, and know that they will be heard."

A Bay Area "Night of Noise," sponsored by the Billy DeFrank Center, is scheduled for Friday, April 11 from 8 p.m. to midnight at San Jose State University Dining Commons. The event is \$2 and is open to youth ages 13-20. For more information contact Rick at youthprg@defrank.org or (408) 293-3040, ext. 111.

To organize a Day of Silence event, visit www.dayofsilence.org. The Web site features posters, merchandise, and a how-to organizing manual. Information is also available at www.gsanetwork.org/resources/dos.html.

LA cannabis center officers plead guilty

by Liz Highleyman

Hoping to avoid long mandatory prison sentences, three officers of the Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Center pleaded guilty Monday March 31 to federal drug charges.

LACRC President Scott Imler, Vice President Jeffrey Farrington, and Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Yablan accepted a pre-indictment agreement to plead guilty to a single charge of "knowingly opening and maintaining a place where [marijuana] was manufactured, distributed, or used."

In a statement issued March 24, Imler explained that he accepted the plea-bargain because testimony related to medical ne-

cessity has been barred from recent medical cannabis trials. Most recently, Ed Rosenthal was convicted on federal drug charges in January following a trial in which the jury was denied information about the medical aspects of the case. Several jurors later spoke out against the verdict after they obtained complete details.

"Since there really isn't any dispute about what we did at the LACRC, and the why, how, and with whom may not be presented at trial, we are left with no reasonable alternative but to accept the government's pre-indictment plea offer," wrote Imler. "I do not believe that a single patient will be helped by anyone spending the rest of their productive life in federal custody for making a good-faith effort

to implement Proposition 215 responsibly and accountably."

The plea is the result of a Drug Enforcement Administration-led raid on LACRC's Santa Monica Boulevard premises on October 25, 2001 during which 30 armed agents seized patient records, computers, and cash, destroyed growing equipment, and cut down and hauled away some 400 cannabis plants.

In operation since 1996, LACRC was regarded as one of California's most reputable medical marijuana cooperatives, and one that strictly adhered to the guidelines set forth in the state's medical cannabis law. The dispensary had the support of the West Hollywood City Council and local law enforcement officials. At the

page 17 ▶

Stars come out for New Leaf gala

by Zak Szymanski

In troubled times like these, it's nice to know that LGBT people have an outlet specifically designed for their mental health needs. New Leaf: Services for Our Community has since 1995 provided sliding scale HIV/AIDS, mental health, and substance abuse counseling and services to disenfranchised individuals, families, and groups.

In order to support the agency's mission and future endeavors, the agency's annual "Spring Gala" will be held Tuesday, April 8, from 6-9 p.m. New Leaf's gala this year has a distinct show theme; held at Teatro Zin-zanni on Pier 29 in San Francisco, the event will feature entertainment provided by circus artists, contortionists, aerial artists, jugglers, and illusionists. A special appearance is also scheduled by Tony Award-winning actor Alan

Cumming, known for his role as the emcee in Broadway's *Cabaret*. Local cabaret and jazz singer Veronica Klaus will also perform, as will members of Gregangelo's Velocity Circus. And the event will also be the site for the debut of documentarian Bill Weber's new informational video.

"Last year's event was so successful we weren't sure how we could top it. With the participation of Alan Cumming we are sure to have another hit on our hands," said a statement from New Leaf Executive Director Joseph Neisen.

But the star-studded lineup isn't all the evening has to offer; fine food will be provided by Taste Catering; a bar will offer wine and cocktails, and a silent auction will be held. The event is also traditionally a time to honor individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the well being of the LGBT community. Dr. Robert Cabaj, an LGBT substance abuse and mental health

expert, will receive the Michael Switzer Leadership Award; Nancy Kokolj, philanthropist and volunteer, will receive the Ricki Boden Service Award; Wells Fargo will be recognized for its LGBT community sponsorship with the New Leaf Partnership Award; and George Roosen, co-director of new Leaf's Outreach to Elders program, will take home the first-ever Mark Bronnenberg Award for Excellence.

Tickets to the gala are \$150 and benefit New Leaf's programs and services.

"This event is New Leaf's biggest annual fundraiser," said Neisen. "As we face reduced government funding in the coming year, we need to enlist the generosity of the community to support New Leaf's many programs and services."

Festive attire is encouraged, and a prompt RSVP is recommended. Call (415) 731-5539 for more information. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Favorable ruling in Net obscenity lawsuit

by Liz Highleyman

A three-judge panel for the Southern District of New York ruled Monday, March 31 that photographer Barbara Nitke and the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom may go forward with their lawsuit challenging the remaining obscenity provisions of the 1996 Communications Decency Act.

In December 2001, Nitke and the NSCF filed suit seeking to overturn parts of the CDA that could lead to prosecution of individuals and groups that operate Web sites featuring sexually explicit material.

In 1997 the Supreme Court struck down the indecency provisions of the CDA, but left standing the law's obscenity provisions, under which material that is "patently offensive" under "local community standards" is not protected by the First Amendment unless its creator can prove that it has redeeming literary, artistic, social, or political value.

This week, Judges Robert Sack, Richard Berman, and Gerard



Barbara Nitke

Lynch unanimously ruled that the plaintiffs must be given an opportunity to prove that the CDA is vague and overbroad and bans speech that should be protected.

In a related decision in May 2002, the Supreme Court ruled that the application of "local community standards" to the Internet could allow the most puritanical communities to impose their standards on the entire country. Shortly after that ruling, Nitke and the NSCF filed a motion seeking a preliminary injunction to prevent enforcement of the CDA's obscenity provisions.

"Local community definitions

of what is obscene vary dramatically," said NCSF attorney John Wierenus. "The First Amendment does not allow any one locality to impose its morality on the nation."

"It isn't right for members of a small, rural town to be able to determine the community standards of cities like New York or San Francisco," said NCSF spokeswoman Susan Wright.

Several queer, civil liberties, and sex education groups filed amicus briefs supporting the plaintiffs, including the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Triangle Foundation, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality.

"The CDA statute could deprive artists and educators of one of the last venues we have for displaying, discussing, and selling sexually frank material," said Nitke, a faculty member at New York's School of Visual Arts who maintains a Web site featuring her sexually explicit photographs, some of which depict sado-masochism. "I live in fear of prosecution because my photographs could be deemed obscene in some communities." ▼

Leather leadership confab next weekend

by Liz Highleyman

The seventh annual Leather Leadership conference will take place in Boston next weekend, April 11-13. This year's theme will be "Forging Links: Strengthening Ourselves."

LLC is a one-of-a-kind gathering of BDSM/leather/fetish community leaders and activists. Unlike the many leather conferences that revolve around title contests, dungeon parties, and workshops on SM technique, LLC focuses on developing practical skills in areas such as organization, outreach, and activism. LLC's aims include promoting leadership skills and fostering a sense of unity and understanding among various facets of the diverse leather community.

The conference is expected to

bring together educators, academics, authors, activists, and others from across the country. The pansexual conference is open to participants of all genders and sexual orientations. Past conferences have drawn 200-300 participants.

This year's keynote speaker will be controversial author and sexual liberation activist Patrick Califia. Before beginning a gender transition in 1999, Califia played a key role in the birth of the leatherdyke community, and was a founding member of Samois, the first lesbian BDSM group. He penned a monthly advice column for the *Advocate* for 10 years and has written several books, including *The Lesbian S/M Safety Manual*, *Macho Sluts*, and, most recently, *Speaking Sex to Power*. Califia is the parent of a 3-year-old son and a licensed therapist in private

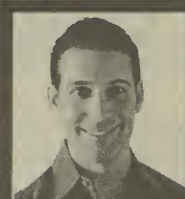
practice.

"Califia's lifetime of writing, speaking, and rabble-rousing for alternative sexuality causes is unparalleled," said LLC organizer Cecilia Tan.

LLC will feature nearly 50 workshops on topics including creating leather organizations on college campuses, medical information for the SM community, conflict resolution, working with law enforcement, transgender inclusion in the BDSM community, volunteer management, starting and running a leather business, working the media, and the politics of aging in the leather community.

In addition to the formal presentations, the conference will also include ample opportunities for networking and coalition building.

Conference registration is \$90. For more information visit www.leatherleadership.org/llc7. ▼



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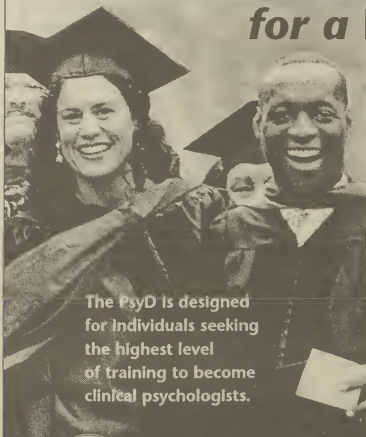
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OPEN FORUM

Strike down sodomy law

The United States Supreme Court should strike down the Texas' blatantly antigay sodomy law. Last week the court heard oral arguments in the case, *Lawrence v. Texas*, a ruling is expected later this year. As most readers are aware, the case started in September 1998, when a false report of a disturbance involving a gun led police to enter the home of John Lawrence, where he was discovered having anal sex with Tyrone Garner. The men were convicted of violating the Texas Homosexual Conduct law and each fined \$200. The convictions were dismissed initially, but later reinstated and upheld by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Texas is one of just a few states that criminalizes gay sex. Significantly, in taking the case, the Supreme Court is being forced to revisit one of its most horrendous decisions, the infamous *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision of 1986; that ruling held that the right of privacy does not extend to sexual relations between gays.

As noted by many lawyers and civil rights advocates, *Lawrence v. Texas* is an opportunity for the court to right that wrong.

What was interesting about the oral arguments the court heard last week is that from virtually all accounts, Harris County District Attorney Charles Rosenthal Jr. — whose job it was to defend the Texas law — made a poor showing in his debut before the high court. However, Paul Smith, the openly gay attorney who argued against the law, was succinct and elegant in his presentation. Smith attacked the law on two fronts: equal protection and due process. Sexual intimacy in the home is an aspect of "liberty" that the due process guarantee protects, he argued, and if the justices agree, they would have to disavow *Bowers*.

Rosenthal, on the other hand, argued that Texas has the right to set moral standards. If that is truly the case, the Texas law should apply to heterosexual couples as well — it does not.

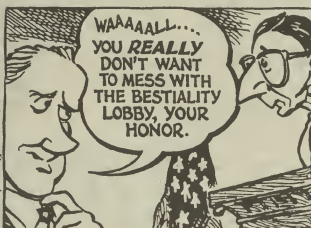
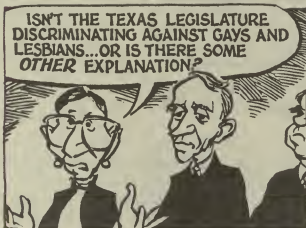
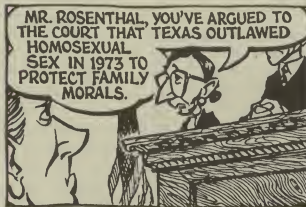
Supreme Court observers are optimistic that the justices will throw out the Texas law, possibly overturning *Bowers* in the process. It is a decision we hope will occur, and one that is long overdue. For decades, same-sex couples have faced discrimination stemming from sodomy laws. Many states — including California — have overturned such draconian laws, but their

presence on the books elsewhere treats gays as second-class citizens and perpetuates stereotypes and discrimination in all walks of life, including employment, housing, and child custody matters. As attorney Smith said last week, "[T]he court's decisions don't just look at history, they look at the function that a particular claimed freedom plays in the lives of real people."

We are real people. We have a right to have consensual sex in the privacy of our own homes. The Texas Homosexual Conduct law cannot be justified; the high court should throw it out. ▼



Editorial



Don't fall for White House spin

by Kevin Weaver

Support our troops. To the peace movement, that has always meant supporting their right to live, to defend this country against true aggressors, and to have healthy and prosperous lives as full-time soldiers and veterans. But when the mainstream media and the right-wing pundits say "support our troops" they mean something different. What they mean is don't question or oppose the Bush administration's motives for war. To do so, they say, would be akin to treason or aiding and abetting the enemy; even to become the enemy itself. Again they are hoping to revive the "support our troops" propaganda used during the first Gulf War to crush real and possible antiwar dissent seething beneath the American conscience. Unlike Gulf War I, this war is an invasion and is widely opposed throughout the world. I'm afraid the White House press corps and their subsidiaries will have to work overtime to whip the American public back in line, especially since not that long ago we were forced to step outside of our self-imposed isolation and ask ourselves "why does the world hate us?" It's crucial for the Bush administration, and Bush's re-election campaign, that we don't connect the dots. But so far it seems the rehash of the yellow ribbon campaign is proving successful, in large part thanks to the mainstream press.

In wartime, propaganda is a weapon. The unusually public debate that occurred in the U.S. military over whether to destroy Iraqi television is a prime example as the U.S. generals try to walk a fine line between uncontrolled aggression and a strained public relations campaign. One researcher from the right-wing Heritage Foundation, who was recently quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, has already labeled this war a "politically correct" war since, in his opinion, we haven't killed enough Iraqi civilians and destroyed their media.

If only this was Afghanistan, he must say. Ending the debate once and for all, the U.S. military finally did bomb Iraqi television, violating the much talked about Geneva Conventions. The same conventions the

United States, standing on her soapbox, uses to criticize and attack Iraqi and Al Jazeera television when they show American prisoners of war, but which they conveniently feign ignorance of when CNN broadcasts the same type of footage of captured Iraqis. In their artful game, U.S. military tells us that in order for their invasion to be successful, they must make the enemy's (an ever-expanding category) voice disappear. But to think they're confining their strategy only to Iraq is a mistake. Flip the channel to any American news station and with a spoonful of sugar, the lies and cover-ups go down. For the White House, it's better if we see only what the government and the military wants us to see and this is what many American journalists in bed (not embedded) with the military also believe.

To our detriment, knocking out the enemy's media in Iraq also translates into the Bush administration's domestic program, where the enemy of the administration is the non-corporate, alternative press that is quickly disappearing thanks to a military general's son. Michael Powell, son of Secretary of State Colin Powell and a Republican, is chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and is allowing media conglomeration to occur at an unprecedented rate, with mega-media corporations sucking up independent news outlets across the country. One only has to look at Clear Channel and their banning of the song "Imagine" by John Lennon from hundreds of radio stations to see that one doesn't have to bomb the uncooperative media in this country — you just buy it and slowly strangle it to death. Like a frog slowly lowered into boiling water so that it doesn't reactively save itself, this is the American way of coercion and compliance in virtually bombing the media.

Right now, how many of the soldiers in Iraq, supposedly defending our "way of life," know that their rights to free speech and access to information are not being hijacked by the evil Saddam Hussein but by the same Bush administration that has sent them off to die? Whose image is being hijacked by

NBC, owned by General Electric — maker of bombs — to sell a lemon of a war like slick used car salesmen. And ultimately, who will be forgotten when this so-called war is over, like the Gulf War I vets who continue to die from Gulf War syndrome related illnesses.

I have some harsh news for our troops. They are not defending our rights. It may be a hard pill to swallow for them and their loved ones, but the fact of the matter is that in this war of aggression, they are merely pawns in a rich oilman's game. It is not them but us, the civilian opponents of the Bush regime who are out in the streets and public plazas, who are defending and fighting for that which makes America great. They will not bomb our way to freedom at home, as much as they will not bomb Iraq into a peaceful democracy.

Here at home we have the advantage. We have a voice and must use it. We have the power to do something now to support free speech, and yes believe it or not, by doing so we are also supporting the troops. If you want the truth, question authority wherever you find it. And when you find an independent news source that's providing you with the news you deserve, not just "the news fit to print," fight like hell to keep it. Because we, as American civilians, whether you are a pacifist or a hawk, are now fighting a real war. This war is more important than any war to date because its casualties are too numerous to count and its effects will be around long after the bodies stop smoldering. This war is a war for our minds. This war is a war to preserve our democracy, not from a foreign aggressor, but from members of our own society.

Remember that the next time you are asked if you "support the troops." ▼

Kevin Weaver is a San Francisco-based social justice activist and organizer for the Out Against the War Coalition, a group of antiwar lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer groups and individuals.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Blind pacifism

The war protesters have more firmly than ever convinced me that the military action in Iraq is necessary. Their blind belief that by saying "Peace" 50,000 times will cause it to happen is naive, ridiculous, and just plain dangerous. Peace requires two willing parties to make it happen.

Saddam Hussein, as a dictator, isn't interested in peace, murders his own people (which the protesters don't want to address), and only wants to continue his terrorist regime.

And, by the way, I'm not willing to have biological/chemical weapons tested on the U.S. whenever he, or another terrorist organization he sells to, decides to strike us. The protesters' pacifism is and has always been one-sided (we're the only party expected to be responsible) and dangerously blind (to the other parties' actions, i.e., Saddam's).

Randy Williams
San Francisco

Terrorism in our midst

War is never fun. It is always expensive in treasure and lives. But sometimes there is no better way to accomplish peace and justice in the world. It could well be the best of a bunch of undesirable choices for President Bush, given the uncertain and risky consequences of every other course of action, or inaction.

We are hoping that Iraqis will rise up against Saddam Hussein and put an end to his brutal dictatorship, terminate the war, and bring our troops back home.

For his part, Saddam hopes that Americans rise up against the war, so he can continue in power for the next decade or two, wreaking savage retribution against the Kurds and anyone who dares oppose him. We should not play into Saddam's hands.

The antiwar demonstrators have a constitutional right to express themselves. But they do not have a right to disrupt the lives of others. Their rights do not extend to the point that they affect others' rights to the peaceful and lawful conduct of our lives.

The thousands of people, including me, who were held up for an extended period by the protesters experienced a form of kidnapping or hostage-taking. We were inconvenienced, and our personal liberty was curtailed by the antiwar demonstrators. I was in a car that was blocked in traffic on the highway off-ramp, unable to move through the gridlock caused by the protesters. Even ambulances were trapped by the demonstrators.

The protesters got the attention they may have craved. But it was the same kind of attention that a child gets who is unable to get attention for any positive accomplishment.

They have caused millions of dollars in damages to San Franciscans. Many businesses were closed on Friday [March 21]. Workers lost wages. Suppliers lost sales. Customers were deprived of needed goods and services. The city had to spend millions on police and ancillary services to monitor and police the demonstrations.

We need a new criminal category so these protesters and the organizers can be adequately punished – for deliberate economic sabotage and terrorism, and conspiracy to cause economic sabotage and terrorism. The practical consequences of the protests are not dissimilar to the damage and chaos that might be caused by an act of terrorism.

By all means, let protesters gather at Sharon Meadow or Crissy Field and demonstrate there, give speeches, and invite the media. They should get a permit, like other group gatherings.

San Francisco's vaunted tolerance does not include acquiescence to the antisocial behavior of the violent and disruptive antiwar demonstrators.

Sarosh Kumana
San Francisco

Naïve opinions

I was greatly disturbed by the rather naïve opinions of Tom McCloskey, who wrote that he is ashamed to be gay because many of us in the LGBT community have come out against the police action in Iraq [Mailstrom, March 27].

What is most disturbing is the continued attempt by those who have been supporting this police action to link those opposed to it as being supportive of Saddam Hussein. Now, Mr. McCloskey wants to drag smaller groups into the muck by reducing it to, in this case, those in the LGBT community. I must say, I'm ashamed Mr. McCloskey is gay too!

He wrote, "Let there be no mistake, those who oppose military intervention in Iraq are helping Saddam Hussein stay in power and build his supply of non-conventional weapons."

I have never read a more ignorant statement backed with such an arrogant tone in all the letters I have read recently. Does Mr. McCloskey forget the fact that the U.S. is the regime that placed Mr. Hussein into power? Does he forget that the U.S. is the regime that gave Mr. Hussein his weapons of mass destruction? Does he just not realize that as evil as Mr. Hussein is, his existence in many ways is the fault of this country?

What those of us who are opposed to this police action are opposed to is the murder of innocent people on both sides of the planet. Do not, Mr. McCloskey, attempt to cloud our passion for life by ignorant rhetoric. Let there be no mistake, you have a good deal to learn.

Charlie Richards
San Francisco

Yeah, but 'B' comes before 'G'

I was quite taken aback at the headline of your March 27 issue, "LGBTs against war take to the streets."

This seems like a situation where the "cubical brigade" at 1800 Market Street decided that they needed to make a statement. I for one would like to know who they were representing other than themselves.

Now, to the LGBT center. Somehow, the lesbian community has decided that whatever goes on in this city, the word lesbian heralds the beginning of all jargon, including our new center. Check your phone book, now it's the Lesbian/Gay Catholic Dignity? Lesbian Gay Chorus? Lesbian Gay Freedom Day Committee? Lesbian Gay Historical Society? Lesbian Gay Ministry Episcopal? Doesn't this start to ring a bell, to awaken some of you gay people in this city?

Why is the lesbian word ahead of the word gay? Sorry ladies, whatever you're trying to be, I for one can see right through your feminine/masculine scenario.

The fact is, over the Castro, a gay flag proudly flies. It's for one and all, understood? Not for women giving themselves priority billing.

If you think about it, lesbian can never be inclusive, whereas gay is inclusive of men and women.

G (as in gay) comes before L (as in lesbian), so why has this become an issue in San Francisco, when not in Australia, New York, Chicago, and New Orleans, to name a few? How did this happen in the gay capital of the United States?

My thinking is they (the lesbians) took over when the fighters all transpired of AIDS, old age, or whatever. And now, the younger generation doesn't give a good crap.

The entitlement of gay should stand for one and all, not diversification.

John A. McDonald
San Francisco

Ammiano out of touch

When was the last time David W. Martin [Mailstrom, March 27] walked through the Castro? Perhaps it was the last time anyone saw his political idol, Tom Ammiano, in the 'hood – when he was handing out fliers in support of Eileen Hansen, who ran unsuccessfully against Bevan Dufty for District 8 supervisor last year.

Had Martin and Ammiano been paying attention to District 8 and citywide concerns, they would have supported the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro's program called "Create Change, Don't Give It Away," which several years ago asked people not to enable panhandlers, but to make donations to nonprofits that provided services for the needy. This was an early attempt to address homelessness in the city. It eventually found leadership from Supervisor Gavin Newsom and his Care Not Cash initiative, which received resounding support from most districts in San Francisco, including District 8, but which Ammiano opposed. Ammiano's failure to focus on quality of life issues shows how out of touch he is with the city at large.

On housing, Ammiano disregarded an electoral mandate against restricting tenancies-in-common by voting to support Supervisor McGoldrick's bill limiting a form of property ownership that is particularly important for same-sex couples and that allows middle-income buyers the opportunity to purchase their own homes. McGoldrick's TIC legislation has been declared illegal by the courts, but defending it cost the city scarce tax dollars. Ammiano's support for that legislation was arrogant – showing a disdain for the democratic process – and harmful to gays and lesbians. Newsom, on the other hand, respected the will of the people and voted against McGoldrick's legislation.

San Francisco is facing an unprecedented financial challenge during the next few years. It will need a mayor who understands business, who will attract new employers to the city and get existing ones to expand their presence here – which means more jobs, jobs that pay well and provide good medical and retirement benefits. Ammiano's well-known antipathy toward business and opposition to home ownership will not help the city improve its tax base. Newsom, however, combines successful business with solid public service experience and will provide the necessary leadership to restore economic vitality to our city.

When the Bay Area Reporter makes its valued and sought after endorsement, I hope it will go to Gavin Newsom, whose track record on quality of life, home ownership, and economic issues proves he is the best qualified of all those seeking to be San Francisco's next mayor.

Robert W. Melbourne
San Francisco



Mailstrom

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What flavor is your restroom?

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

I am sure I run the risk of having my "transgender woman" membership card revoked for saying this publicly, but I walked into a men's room recently.

I think I was okay, as I was accompanied by a butch friend of mine, S. Bear Bergman. I was touring the San Francisco LGBT Community Center with him, and wanted to check out a rumor — one that turned out to be most delightfully true.

There are tampon dispensers in the men's room.

To Bear and myself, this was delightful news, well worth my wandering beyond the bounds of a men's room door to discover. I would go so far as to say it was the best moment I've ever experienced in the little boy's room.

Of course, I was also left wondering why such a place as an LGBT center, especially one in such a progressive location, would even bother to have traditionally labeled rooms.

This begs the question: what would be non-traditional monikers for such things? What terms could be applied to these doors that could do a better job not only for transgender people, but maybe for all who would need a pot to pee in.

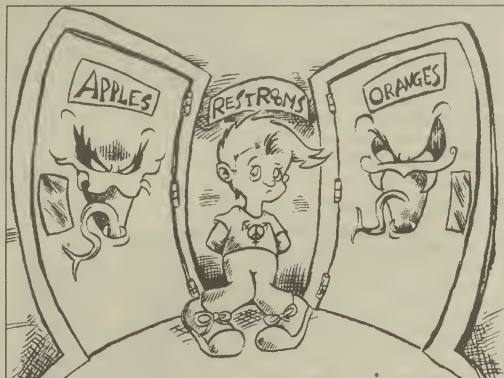
I'm not talking about "Bouys" and "Gulls" like you might see in a nautical-themed eatery that is trying too hard to keep with its fishy theme. I think we can be far more inventive than that.

I asked a couple friends of mine for their best suggestions on this bathroom door issue, just to see if there were some better solutions out there.

The aforementioned Bear suggested a three-door concept, namely "Stand Up," "Sit Down," and "Fight Fight Fight!" While I worry that this might be veering way too close to sports-bar kitsch, it certainly might work for a lot of people. I'd probably avoid the "Fight Fight Fight" door though: sounds entirely too "rough trade" for me.

Another friend — I'll refer to her as Christine, because that's her name — mentioned the markings in a bar in New York City: "Butch" and "Femme." This one appeals to me, as it takes a step beyond the standard expectations of a sex-based gender. It provides some viable options, but I suspect some would still find it limiting.

Christine also mentioned a recent performance of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, where bathrooms were marked "Hansel" and "Hed-



Christine Smith

wig." On the surface, that may still seem the same as "Men" and "Women," but if you really think about it, it might leave one more confused than before.

Which makes me wonder if a "Christine Jorgensen" and "Lou Sullivan" pair of doors would work well, or perhaps even a "Leslie Feinberg" and "Kate Bornstein" pair. The latter could muddy some waters even further. Heck, I'm not even sure which of the latter set I'd use: knowing me, I'd have to flip a coin before entering.

So what are my door name choices? Well, I'm a bit of a troublemaker. I'd probably want to see a pair of bathrooms marked "Hir" and "Hir." You still have a 50 percent chance of hitting the right door if you wish, and I can just imagine some of the confused faces outside those two, as people try desperately to figure out just which "hir" they happen to be.

Maybe it would help some to see what a transperson might go through in the same circumstance.

When non-transgendered people start asking me questions, the issue of bathroom usage rears its ugly head. I wonder sometimes if they have ever had to be asked — over and over again — which brand of potty they prefer. Moreover, why they feel justified in using a particular bathroom. I suspect they would sputter something about it being the one they are supposed to use, as if that's a good enough reason.

That's the big problem, of course. Transgender people often don't have the benefit of just saying, "well, of course I use the _____ room, because I'm a _____." Some folks just don't want to believe that we are what we say we are.

I am sure that many people — both transgender and not — use a men's or women's room without a care in the world, all the livelong

day. It's only when one is a little too butch or a little too femme to be so clearly pigeonholed, that things get tricky. Butch women and MTFs might get the boot from women's rooms, and femme men and FTMs might face worse than just being kicked out of the men's rooms. Besides this, there are not many "little transgender rooms" scattered about the countryside: not easy if you just don't wish to fit into a limited binary.

It's all a bit of a dilemma, just because you want to use a restroom.

That is what it's all about, by the way. Typically, all we're doing around a toilet is what anyone else is doing. When you have to go, you have to go. Yet it seems that those folks who have some need to ask about the proper bathroom for a transgender person seem to think that we're doing some horrible unspeakable acts in there. Trust me, it's been years since I've managed to find a good bathroom-based virgin sacrifice and goat buggery competition — like never.

So what is the answer? Maybe it is as simply and potentially silly as figuring out a new label or two for the toilet pair of your choosing. "Apples" and "Oranges" might make for a tasty set of doors, or even "This" and "That." Better yet, why not consider scrapping the monikers altogether, and just go with "Bathroom."

Just make sure to keep the tampon dispensers stocked: you never know when someone might need them. ▼

Gwen Smith might be considered a "potty mouth" for this column. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and in the newly-revamped www.gwensmith.com.

First Latin America lesbian march

More than 1,500 women gathered at El Monumento de la Revolución in México City on March 21 to celebrate Latin America's first lesbian march. Organizers decided to hold the event in search of visibility on behalf of the lesbian community. Participants walked on Bulevar La Reforma and Avenida Juárez toward El Zócalo, Mexico's well-known political plaza. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation was there to share this historic event with Mexico's lesbian community.



Courtesy Monica Taler/GIAO

POLITICS

Dean uses war against fellow Democrats

by Wayne Friday

Former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean** has come out swinging in using Bush's war in Iraq against his fellow Democratic presidential candidates.

Several of the nine announced candidates for the Democratic nomination next year are members of Congress and other than Representative **Dennis Kucinich** (Ohio), all have expressed to one extent or another, support of the war in Iraq.

Senators **John Kerry** (Massachusetts), **Joseph Lieberman** (Connecticut), and **John Edwards** (North Carolina) as well as Representative **Richard Gephardt** of Missouri all have voted in Congress to express their support of the American troops now fighting in Iraq, and again, to a lesser degree, support of President **George W. Bush** and his policies.

Dean, considered by most to be a long shot for the party's nomination, has been a vocal opponent of this nation's going to war against **Saddam Hussein** and has won cheers from Democratic audiences by saying he would not have ever voted for the war resolution that his presidential opponents who are congressional members helped pass. Indeed, Dean has gone out of his way to heap criticism on those Democratic presidential hopefuls, who, unlike himself, had their hands forced on the controversial vote.

While claiming that he alone represents "the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party," pointing out that most of his opponents have lined up in support of the war and Bush, Dean, who appears to be appealing to what is left of the Eugene McCarthy-**George McGovern** wing of the Democratic party, is particularly critical of Kerry, who most polls show as the leader among those seeking to oppose Bush next year (although a recent poll had Kerry and Dean tied in New Hampshire).

"To this day, I don't know what John Kerry's position is," Dean said last week in a speech to Iowa Democratic activists. Dean further referred to Kerry when he added: "If you agree with the war, then say so. If you don't agree with the war, then say so as well, but don't wobble around in between."

Kerry has long said that Saddam Hussein must be disarmed and removed from power, but he has also strongly criticized the Bush administration for its actions leading to the war, saying that the president should have given diplomacy more time and adding that Bush's failure to do so has unnecessarily alienated America's allies.

Dean's appeal to antiwar Democratic primary voters might be helpful in the short run in some party quarters, but, if as some still feel, this war is over in weeks – or even a few months – the war itself might not be an issue by the time Iowa and New Hampshire hold their first primary nominating contests.



Pres. candidate Howard Dean

Kerry's campaign said he will not respond to Dean's attacks other than to say: "Democrats are disappointed that Howard Dean has decided to use a war for political gain and attack other candidates in a negative, divisive, and personal way."

Dean's political tactics may backfire, particularly since he himself appears to want to have it both ways when it comes to the war issue. For example, Dean said just before the troops landed in Iraq that he would support military action only if it was proved that Iraq had nuclear weapons and refused to disarm "within 60 days." However, last week Dean told reporters in Washington that the troops must stay and finish the fight now that they are on the ground. Indeed, a Democratic nominee who criticizes the war during the primary season could have plenty of trouble appealing to moderate and conservative voters needed to win the general election against Bush, particularly if the president brings the Iraq conflict to a reasonably quick and successful end, and the nation's economy somehow manages to rebound before November 2004.

Dean seems to have grabbed on to what he sees as an issue that could possibly propel him into the top tier of Democratic presidential candidates and has certainly shown no reluctance to use the war to bring to an end the polite public tone of the Democratic presidential primary contest.

I'll also point out that when a local Dean volunteer called me last week to point out the former governor's "strong and brave" opposition to the war, and reminded me of Dean's well-known support of marriage-like civil unions for same-sex couples, the young man quickly changed the subject when I asked him why Dean, a physician, still opposes the use of medical marijuana for persons suffering with AIDS and other illnesses.

Politics and people

Hey, I'm not sure if this is the answer, but the U.S. House of Representatives last week passed a resolution calling for a national day of humility, prayer, and fasting in this time of war and terrorism. Under the resolution, which passed 346-49, President Bush would issue a proclamation designating a specific day as a

"day of humility, prayer, and fasting" and it says Americans should use the day of prayer "to seek guidance from God to achieve a greater understanding of our own failings and to learn how we can do better in our everyday activities, and to gain resolve in meeting the challenges that confront our nation." A similar resolution, approved on March 17, said that it was the sense of the U.S. Senate that the day should be a "national day of prayer and fasting." Guess it's worth a try.

As for how the war is going in Iraq, it's apparently a matter of whom you ask, but the president assures us almost daily that "while we do not know the duration of this conflict, we do know the outcome; the regime [in Iraq] will be removed and the Iraqi people will be free." Now, I don't want to seem pessimistic, but I've been glued to the television and reading the papers since this thing broke out and, frankly, I have to ask why it is that I have the feeling that there is unquestionably a change in emphasis in what Bush and Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld** are telling us that appears to coincide with what appears to have been happening on the battlefield. I hope I'm mistaken, but I feel that Bush, Rumsfeld, and General **Tommy Franks** unwisely thought before they went into Iraq that the entire thing was built on a house of cards that would quickly collapse at the first whiff of gun powder. That clearly hasn't happened, however, and those dreaded body bags have begun coming home.

Meanwhile, **Andrew Sullivan**, the controversial gay conservative writer, has finally written something with which even I agree. In a recent *Time* magazine column, Sullivan called Britain's **Tony Blair** "The American Prime Minister," adding that Blair has gained rare influence in world politics in part because "he has strengths that Bush lacks." Sullivan writes that "Blair is more powerful than any British prime minister since Churchill, and many Americans, from nervous liberals to hard-nosed neoconservatives, find that oddly reassuring." Well said, Mr. Sullivan, and why is it that so many of us somehow find Blair more "reassuring" than we find Bush?

In Redding, California, last week, **James Tyler Williams**, 32, was sentenced to 29 years to life for the July 1999 double murder of a gay couple, Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder. Williams's brother, Matthew Williams, also arrested for the crime, committed suicide in prison last November before the trial. Before his death, however, Matthew Williams gave a jailhouse interview admitting his part in the killings of the two men, saying he did it because he believed God viewed homosexuality as a mortal sin, claiming "I'm not guilty of murder, I'm only guilty of obeying the laws of the Creator."

I've said repeatedly that I think Board of Supervisors President **Matt Gonzalez** is one of the brightest guys in City Hall, but is this guy not a bit presumptuous when he goes on television accusing the police department of engaging in "overkill" in dealing with those always "non-vio-

next page ►

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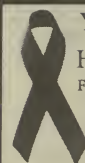
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The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

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Halloween

◀ page 2

J. Falzon, who testified at the hearing, said that the 13 bars in the proposed perimeter are sure to be packed.

"Maybe it's their Christmas," said Falzon, "but to tell you the truth, I think they're going to wish they were closed."

According to Falzon, last year 18 merchants were cited for exceeding their license limits, mainly for selling to-go beer out of their storefronts.

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, the local business group, had opposed a ban on alcohol. Outgoing President Patrick Batt had also opposed entertainment. Now, Batt's position is that "everything's on the table."

Most observers also agree that there should be some entertainment.

"You need to give them something to see," said Mission Station's acting captain, Lieutenant Roger Battaglia, in order to keep the crowd from surging. He also said that having entertainment up and down Market Street would draw people away from the corner

of Castro and Market and reduce crowd density.

Duffy, and many of those at the meeting, said the costs for the entertainment and facilities, and perhaps some part of the city's \$200,000 bill in police overtime and other services, could be recouped by putting up donation gates around the perimeter. The Castro Street Fair, a much smaller event, took in \$62,000 last fall for 24 charities. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence took in \$50,000 in two hours for Pink Saturday last year.

Muni spokeswoman Maggie Lynch said that Muni is ready to implement special service for the party, but worried more about BART. "Your odds of getting home to the East Bay after Halloween in the Castro are pretty slim," Lynch said, because BART shuts down at midnight.

BART director Tom Radulovich said in a separate interview that BART would consider staying open late, as it has for New Year's Eve, but that the proposition would have to break even financially. He said that BART would have to keep the whole system operating for the extra hours.

Most of the major gay community event organizers in the city,

Pride, Castro Street Fair, Folsom Street Fair, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence went to the hearing to volunteer their help. The legislation that created San Francisco's new entertainment commission states that the commission's director will be in overall charge of the event. But that person has not yet been hired, because the commission does not formally come into existence until July. Newly appointed Entertainment Commissioner Terrance Alan said he hopes the mayor will hire someone early, so they can be in on the early planning process for Halloween.

Most of the other people who spoke at the hearing also commented about the need for public education about the new tenor of the party.

"It has been billed as the Bay Area's biggest drunken street party," said Steve Gaynes, president of the Castro Street Fair, "and that needs to change."

Gustavo Serina, president of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, said that whatever form the Halloween party takes, it needs to leave the area undamaged.

"We just don't want our neighborhood trashed," Serina said. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

lent" war protesters? Meanwhile, I guess we'll have to wait for a word - any word - from the likable supervisor as to how he feels about the alleged criminal activity of the notorious "Black Bloc" and their supporters. Matt?

Bob Hattoy, environmentalist and quote-meister who has a lot of friends in the city, has been

appointed by Governor Gray Davis to the California Fish and Game Commission. Hattoy, the longtime gay activist and Sierra Club spokesman, also served as a White House deputy and liaison to the Interior Department in the Clinton administration.

Supporters of Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) are getting an early start in dissuading any possible primary opponent of the popular legislator by throwing a \$1,000 per ticket

re-election fundraiser for him to be held May 12 at the Mecca restaurant on Market Street; phone (916) 441-6855 or fax (916) 441-6857 for tix or info.

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" from one of my favorite comics, Chris Rock: "You know this world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, and Germany doesn't want to go to war."

And how was your week? ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Ruff deal

by Jane Warner

City of Pinole, March 14, 2:10 a.m.: Pinole police officers responded to a call of a suspicious package in a park. Upon arrival, officers searched the area and found a cardboard box near the restrooms. Inside the box, they found a puppy, bleeding from cuts on its nose, ears, and front paw. The wounded Shar Pei mix was rushed to a pet hospital where he was treated for his injuries and given a temporary name of Cho-Cho. This puppy, described as sweet, loves to play ball, and was placed into foster care in San Francisco. Those interested in adopting Cho-Cho should contact his foster daddies, Bruce or Darrin, at (415) 846-9272.

Spoiled the broth

Sparky's Diner, 242 Church Street, March 29, 12:36 a.m.: While preparing for breakfast, one of the cooks noticed a man walk into the kitchen through the back door that faces the street. The man started to

panhandle the kitchen staff, asking for money and handouts. The cook told the man to leave, but the man ignored him and continued to stand in the kitchen asking for money. Finally, the cook led the intruder by the arm out the door. When the cook turned his back, the man pulled a knife and threatened him. In self defense, the cook punched the suspect in the face, causing him to fall to the ground. The suspect got up and went to a pay phone, where he called police and complained he had just been assaulted by the employees of Sparky's. Officers arrived and found the man's knife wedged between a wall and a banister near where the suspect was standing. After ascertaining what happened, officers arrested the 29-year-old suspect, and booked him at Mission Station for trespassing, carrying a concealed weapon, and making criminal threats.



Gang bang

Does Your Mother Know, 548 Castro Street, March 29, 9:56 p.m.:

A man and two women walked into the novelty store and appeared to be looking around. The two women began badgering the store clerk with nonsense

questions, while the man stood in the back of the store. Suspecting the women were trying to distract him so the man could steal something, the clerk asked all of them to leave and stepped from behind the counter to escort them

out. "We didn't do nothing," argued the man, who suddenly turned and punched the clerk in the face. The clerk fell against the glass case, which toppled over. The suspect continued to punch the clerk seven to eight times in the face, causing cuts above his eyes and his cheeks. The suspects fled the store and were last seen running westbound on 18th Street. Responding police could not find them. The clerk was transported via ambulance to Davies Medical Center and treated for his injuries. Suspect number one is described as African American male, 6 feet tall, 150 pounds with a thin build, 35-40 years old, wearing a brown and green warm-up suit. The two women accomplices were both described as African American, 20-25 years old, short and stocky, wearing dark clothing. ▼

Gay AWOL

◀ page 1

derloin Housing Clinic, has nothing to do with Funk's decision to leave the military.

"That's not the type of discharge we're seeking," Collier told the Bay Area Reporter on Monday, March 31. Under the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, Collier elaborated, Funk had every right to serve, but after he enlisted, he formulated his objection to the war.

Funk acknowledged his sexual orientation in his conscientious objector statement, according to a story posted on the Advocate's Web site. "My moral development has also been largely effected by the fact that I'm a homosexual," he wrote. "I believe that as a gay man, someone who is misunderstood by much of the general population, I have a great deal of experience with hatred and oppression.

"Of course I couldn't 'come out' in boot camp, but everyone pretty much knew that I was gay, and many hated me for it. The military cultivates antigay sentiment among its enlisted, but I also believe it perpetuates feelings of hatred against all that are different either culturally, ethnically, or otherwise," Funk stated.

Funk considered his opposition to violence as an evolution that included orders to shout "Kill!" during drill exercises. He sought guidance from military chaplains, whereupon he asked what his Catholic faith had to say about war. The chaplains, he said, advised him that he would soon adjust to it.

The military, said Collier, while not as likely to pursue DADT violations during wartime, has not issued a formal stop-loss order on gay discharges. Therefore, Funk could pursue a discharge based on his openness about his homosexuality, but has chosen the conscientious objector route, said Collier, because it is the true reason behind his not wanting to serve.

But even if Funk did pursue the DADT discharge, it would be an uphill battle. Steve Ralls, spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, told the B.A.R. that service members who come out as gay after they have already received deployment orders, "are most likely going to be deployed."

"A DADT discharge can take anywhere from three to 18 months, and during the discharge process, that service member would typically continue their duties as assigned," said Ralls, who added that generally, gay discharges are processed as honorable discharges, unless other offenses are listed on the service member's record.

Gay service members determined not to go to war, said Ralls, might have the option of transferring to another unit if they can prove harassment and have hard evidence as well as a receptive commanding officer. The other option, said Ralls, would be pursuing conscientious objector status.

"Although DADT remains in effect, its implementation is often different during wartime," said Ralls, "and the military becomes much more reluctant to discharge anyone regardless of sexual orientation."

According to SLDN's annual report, *Conduct Unbecoming*, gay discharges fell nearly 30 percent in 2002, from 1,273 to 906. That is the lowest amount of gay discharges since 1996.

In the beginning months of 2003, SLDN also reported that calls to the agency from gay soldiers seeking assistance rose about 30 percent.

Even with his conscientious objector application, Funk's future remains uncertain. Collier said he expects Funk to serve a punishment of 30 days of desk duty for going AWOL from February through March. And while most military outfits would be reluctant to deploy an antiwar soldier to the front lines, being granted conscientious objector status – which is an honorable discharge – is not guaranteed.

After the news conference, Funk changed into his uniform – a condition of his surrender – and an officer at the base stated that Funk would be assigned to desk duty while he case proceeds through the military.

The numbers of those seeking conscientious objector status is rising, and, according to reports, the military thus far has seemed willing to grant them. The New York Times reported on April 1 that the Marine Corps granted two such discharges at the beginning of the year, compared to two for all of 2002. ▼

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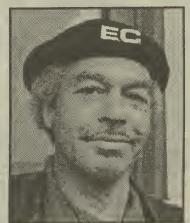
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Women's Building supporters camp out against hate

by Zak Szymanski

Reaffirming their opposition to war and hate crimes against all people, supporters of San Francisco's Women's Building—about 100 in all—gathered in front of the building's mural on the evening of Thursday, March 27 in a demonstration of strength and resistance.

The building's world-famous mural, entitled "Maestrapeace," has been vandalized with anti-Arab, anti-woman, and antigay graffiti six times since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Other neighborhood buildings have also been defaced, including a private residence whose front door displayed a small Palestinian flag. Damage and necessary repairs to the Women's Building in the last year and a half has totaled about \$15,000.

Founded in 1971, the Women's Building is the oldest women owned and operated community center in the country, and has housed and sponsored many progressive, international, and LGBT groups and organizations.

Thursday's event lasted through the night, and 22 participating demonstrators—many wearing pajamas—slept outdoors to guard the space they have worked hard to make a sanctuary for all women.

Bedtime stories

A diverse crowd of many different races, ethnicities, sexualities, and genders kicked off the sleep-over with a vigil that featured lighted candles lining the sidewalk around Valencia Street. Speakers, spoken word performers, and musicians took to the podium to ignite the cause.

Several local organizations—including Community United Against Violence, as well as Women's Building tenants such as San Francisco Women Against Rape—were in attendance, and Supervisor Tom Ammiano stopped by to voice his support.



Nafis, left, and Garcia Sinclair were just two of the many people who camped out in front of the Women's Building March 27.

Speakers included SF Women Against Rape's Massima Kaddoura, who conceived of the idea for a community sleep-over and vigil.

"The war abroad has perpetuated racial violence here at home," said Kaddoura, noting that the vandalism targeted nearly all marginalized groups in an act of broad hatred. The sleep-over, said Kaddoura, was an act of "symbolic protection ... to show support for all the communities attacked at home."

Muralist Edythe Boone, one of several artists whose work is a part of the building's mural, said she remembered more innocent times when she would take her out-of-town guests to the Women's Building, and they would express concern about the potential for graffiti on the mural.

"I said, 'Oh no, people in San Francisco do not put graffiti over murals,'" said Boone, who added that as she continues to watch news coverage of the loss of human life in Iraq, she is astounded by the criticisms of San Francisco's anti-war protests based on how much money it cost to contain them.

"Send the bill to Bush," said

Boone to a thunderous response.

In fact, Mayor Willie Brown has done just that, requesting federal aid under Bush's anti-terrorism plan for the city's work to keep large groups of people off potential terrorist targets like the Bay Bridge.

Boone mused about how the nation has a Department of Defense, "But no department of peace." While antiwar, Boone said she is concerned for American troops abroad.

"I think every drop of blood," she said, "is precious."

Women's Building Executive Director Teresa Mejia told the crowd that the building would continue to stand for peace. She then read from an open letter to President Bush.

"Without you Mr. Bush we would not have realized our own ability to mobilize," said Mejia. "We now know what it feels like to be powerless ... and to take that feeling, and transform it." ▼

For more information on the Women's Building, visit www.womensbuilding.org.

Animals and art at PAWS benefit



Maggie Ellen Jacobs plays with her toy poodle at the annual Petchitecture benefit for Pets Are Wonderful Support held Friday, March 28. The dog enjoys a bed called "Lit d'Ethnographie Pour Kitee," designed by Gensler team members Jeff Henry, Terry Walker, and Kim Dale. PAWS Executive Director Erin Farrell said that about 1,100 people attended the event, which raised about \$122,000 for the organization that serves the needs of low-income pet guardians living with AIDS and other disabling illnesses.



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Safety Information

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.



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Health officials

◀ page 1

ements of gay culture."

The meeting is the first time that officials at the state level have engaged operators of gay sex clubs and bathhouses in the Bay Area as a group. State officials met with sex club operators in Los Angeles this week, and plan to meet owners of venues in San Diego sometime this month.

"We want to use this as an opportunity to collaborate and develop consistent prevention messages. Several of the clubs have developed some pretty comprehensive prevention programs," said Michael Montgomery, head of the state Office of AIDS.

Through the face to face interaction, operators of the sex clubs hope state officials, as well as local health officials, will view them more as partners instead of as adversaries. Venues such as Eros and Steamworks already employ full-time programs devoted to safe sex outreach and providing HIV and STD testing. Many of the venues feel they can be a part of the solution and not part of the problem of rising rates of STDs.

"What is clear is that there is a public health problem going on. The syphilis rates that are dramatically increasing indicate that there is an unavoidable problem," said Bense. "I don't believe sex clubs and bathhouses are the source of that problem. But I think we would be remiss not to acknowledge it exists and do our best to make changes. At our club, we feel very proudly that the reports of syphilis have not been linked to this club."

State officials said they want to work with the venues to create

consistent prevention messages and to encourage all the clubs to offer HIV and STD testing.

"They can partner with us to make sure we are getting prevention messages out to gay men which are sex positive and reasonable," said Montgomery. "They certainly can do a lot in both making information available on the current status of outbreaks in the local area and to make condoms and lubricants available so people have no difficulty getting their hands on them."

Steven Tierney, San Francisco's director of HIV prevention, said places like Eros and Blow Buddies, which both provide testing and educational materials, should be complimented for their work. He said sex clubs are a logical place to address STDs and HIV, and should be supported by public health officials.

"Clubs like Blow Buddies and Eros do better work than anybody else in the country by having health education available and having HIV and STD testing in their facilities," said Tierney, who took part in the meeting. "There are ways the health department can add to the health promotion and education that goes on in those places. Other folks here in San Francisco and across the country can learn from that responsibility and participation."

Jeff Klausner, the city's director of STD prevention, also took part in the meeting and said he wants to augment the city's collaboration with the sex club owners.

"There is a recognition by public health officials that these community businesses historically are important venues in the life of the gay community and we need to work together," said Klausner.

One example of how the city is

responding to the needs of the club owners is testing services will be combined at the clubs. Previously, due to funding issues the clubs could not provide HIV testing and STD screenings on the same days.

"Getting tested is one of the few effective tools that we now have and if someone shows up - God bless them - to get tested, we can't just test them for HIV. We have to test them for STDs at the same time," said Bense. "They are not going to come back for a second visit."

In the end, the bottom line is to keep an open channel of communication between venue operators and the public health departments, said Bense.

"If they believe there is a problem, I want them to call me up and to deal with me directly rather than moving to some sort of other method," said Bense. "I feel people in public health are my colleagues. We are basically doing the same job, which is to keep gay men in San Francisco healthy."

And with federal guidelines restricting the types of messages both public health departments and community organizations can produce, the privately-owned sex clubs can develop more explicit messages as well as respond faster when syphilis rates spike or health threats such as the antibiotic-resistant staph infections emerge.

"A private business has a better opportunity to respond to those things because we don't have the governmental public health bureaucracy to wade through," said Kant. "Public health officials are starting to realize they can use these places for access points, as a place for connecting to guys who may not be connected or to put messages out they may not hear in other places." ▼

ONLY

PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)

[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA." Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (stress) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include lightheadedness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. **Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA. Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see Can children take SUSTIVA?).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended.

Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- **Hivana®** (astemizole)
- **Proplad®** (cispripide)
- **Versed®** (midazolam)
- **Halcion®** (triazolam)
- **Ergot medications** (for example, **Wigraine®** and **Cafergot®**)
- The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA:
- **Fortovase®**, **Inivase®** (saquinavir)
- **Blaxin®** (clarithromycin)
- The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:
- **Crixivan®** (indinavir)
- **Mycobutin®** (rifabutin)
- **Methadone**

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pride breakfast to focus on gays in military

by Cynthia Laird

Out and Equal's next "Pride Power Breakfast" takes place this Friday, April 4 in South San Francisco and the topic will be gays in the military.

Attorney Jo Ann Hoenninger, a board member of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, and Huong Nguyen will speak about the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and its impact on loved ones of gays and lesbians in the service. Other aspects of the homophobic DADT policy, including discharges and perspectives from gays who have served in the military, will also be addressed.

The breakfast runs from 8-9:30 a.m. and is hosted by Genentech, located at 1 DNA Way, in South San Francisco. For directions, visit www.genetech.com. The event is free, although a \$10 donation is suggested. For more information, e-mail kslytle@outandequal.com. ▼

Syphilis

◀ page 3

1999.

To educate men attending the upcoming circuit party about recent syphilis outbreaks, health officials will be out in force discussing the potential health risk and handing out safe-sex packets.

The message for anyone who does engage in sex over the weekend will be "get tested, get tested, get tested" said Dan Wohlfeiler, a spokesman with the state's STD control branch.

Jeffrey Sanker, the producer of the event, said the continued risk of HIV infection as well as the recent outbreak of syphilis cases in the Palm Springs area are both issues he certainly cannot ignore. In a statement, Sanker said that since he is coming into a community that already has this ongoing health issue, he wants to be especially sensitive to the community's concerns.

"This year, just like every year, we are continuing with our efforts to educate patrons on safe sex and the risk of sexually transmitted diseases," said Sanker. "As in previous years, we are working in tandem with the staff of Desert AIDS Project and the Riverside County Department of Health Services, to not only distribute written information promoting safe sex practices to all White Party attendees, but also to provide condoms free of charge to attendees as well as information about STD testing and the continued need to enjoy White Party responsibly."

During the weekend, Desert AIDS Project will have 10,000 safe

sex kits to hand out to all White Party patrons through the distribution of gift bags, at the Palm Springs Street Fair that weekend, and at all of the circuit party events and host hotels. These kits will include condoms, personal lubricants, and a wallet sized information cards for quick reference.

"We are going to make as part of our outreach effort a strong referral for people to go and get tested even if they have only an inkling they might have been exposed to syphilis," said Deborah Morales, assistant director of education and prevention at the Desert AIDS Project. "We are encouraging safe sex of course, making condoms and lube available to anyone who may engage in sexual behavior."

In addition, Sanker and event sponsor Wet Lubricant will be paying for and providing an additional 10,000 kits at its own expense.

"It has always been my strong belief that education and information are the keys to creating a safe and enjoyable environment for patrons today and tomorrow," said Sanker.

Health officials are not only focusing their efforts in Palm Springs. They have been asking health providers in other states and throughout California to interview men with the STD if they have traveled to Palm Springs or other areas of the state, and ask about partners living in Palm Springs or elsewhere in the state. They also have requested cases be asked about specific resorts, clubs, bars, parties, and other venues where sex partners may have been met. ▼

Pro-war gays

◀ page 1

ply to show support for military personnel. Benet is also a former Marine Corps infantry officer who received a master's degree in business administration at Harvard. He declined to reveal his politics, and after one speaker praised the Republican Party, reminded attendees that the event was nonpartisan.

"This rally isn't about me," Benet said. "Pure and simple, it's about showing unconditional support for our troops as individuals. It's about acknowledging that they made a conscious and adult decision to serve our country, that they are legally obligated to be wherever they are sent and do whatever they are told, including risking life and limb."

"It's up to the rest of us to peaceably exercise democracy to directly or indirectly affect the 'who, what, when, where, and how's' of these matters. Any other course of action other than the peaceable exercise of democracy is a slippery slope," he stated.

Benet was new to organizing a rally, but he seemed sincere and many of the 200 or so people who showed up to either attend the rally or eat their lunch in the plaza applauded and appeared to be appreciative of Reed's efforts. One burrito-munching man, however, did attempt to disrupt the event.

"Go home," people shouted at him as police approached to ask him to move on.

"I have a job," the man replied, adding he was a union member.

At one point, Benet turned the microphone over to people in the audience, some of whom had children or loved ones fighting over-

seas. Others described themselves as proud Americans.

"I'm proud to be an American," said city resident Tom Stanley, who then asked about the absence of civic leaders at the rally. "Where are our local leaders? Where are the mayor and the supervisors? Shame on our local leaders."

Stanley, who is openly gay, told the B.A.R. that he's firmly in support of the U.S.-led military action to oust Iraq President Saddam Hussein.

"I'm coming out the closet in support of our troops," Stanley said in an interview as the rally was breaking up. "I'm coming out of the closet to support the war. I'm not ashamed to be an American."

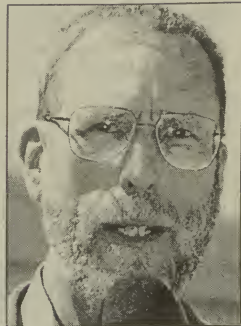
Another gay man attending the rally, Ken Hodnett, agreed.

"I have a nephew in Iraq now," Hodnett said. "Apparently, he's been wounded. I'm also here in support of him and all the troops. I think people against the war don't realize how serious the implications are."

Chris Bowman, the openly gay secretary of the San Francisco Republican Party and a member of the Log Cabin Republicans, attended the Friday event and a larger rally held in support of the troops that took place last Saturday, March 29 in Civic Center Plaza. Bowman was one of several speakers, and he told the B.A.R. this week that the event was one of the largest of its kind in San Francisco. Estimates put the crowd at between 750 and 1,000 people, he said.

"During the [first] Gulf War there was a rally in the Marina Green that had about 80 people," Bowman said.

He said that while he had some misgivings about the United States entering the current war against Iraq, now that the country



Gay GOPer Chris Bowman

is at war, it's time to support those serving in the military.

"We're there, let's get it over quickly," he said.

"I go with the bipartisan viewpoint, even the majority view of Democrats," Bowman said, referring to congressional resolutions in support of the troops that were overwhelmingly approved, with the exception of 11 House Democrats who voted against it because they oppose the war. "Once the balloon goes up, you rally behind the president."

In terms of being a gay man, Bowman said that he's "an American first."

"And I think gays on the left would say the same thing, that there are issues that transcend being gay." ▼

Reed Benet is planning another lunch time rally in support of the troops on Friday, April 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Justin Herman Plaza, Market Street and Embarcadero.

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Protection for TG students

by Carolyn Laub and
Christopher Daley

The following is an occasional column compiled by the Transgender Law Center that answers basic legal questions

of interest to San Francisco's transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and genderqueer communities.

Q. I'm a member of my high school's gay-straight alliance club and I want to educate the rest of my club about the rights of transgender students. Can you please tell me what rights they have in school? Also, how can our club make our school a better place for transgender students?

A. Thank you for writing. Students like you play an important role in creating awareness about gender identity issues in schools around California. Transgender and gender non-conforming students face a number of challenges from fellow students, teachers, and administrators. These challenges can include name calling, physical harassment, lack of recognition of their gender identity, and lack of access to educational opportunities and facilities. By raising awareness about these challenges, and providing common sense solutions to them, you are improving your school environment for everyone.

In January 2000, the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act became law and now prohibits gender and sexual orientation motivated discrimination and harassment in public schools. The law also requires school districts to protect students from gender and sexual orientation motivated harassment. You can find more detailed information about the law at the Gay-Straight Alliance Network Web site www.gsannetwork.org/ab537/index.html.

It is very clear that this law protects students who are gender non-conforming and/or transgender. A gender non-conforming student is someone whose gender expression doesn't fit within stereotypical ideas of how a male or female person behaves, dresses, or identifies. A transgender student might be someone who has transitioned from one gender to another or may be a student who doesn't identify solely as male or female. This law protects students of all gender identities and gender expressions.

Discrimination

Discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming students can manifest in many different ways. The most obvious example would be a student who is dismissed from school or disciplined based on that student's gender expression. As far-fetched

as this sounds, we heard of a young man in Southern California who was suspended from school when it was "discovered" that he had been identified as female at birth. He was told that he could only come back to school when he "stopped lying" to school administrators about his gender.

Obviously, the school in question violated the law by suspending this student. However, because so few school administrators have been educated on these types of issues, violations are all too common. Instead of trying to exhaustively list all of the ways in which a student might face discrimination, we will just highlight the most common.

Names and pronouns

All students have the right to be addressed by a name and pronoun corresponding to their gender identity. This is true regardless of whether the student has obtained a court ordered name or gender change. Any school official who refuses to recognize a student's name change (for instance refusing to call the student

by that name or refusing to allow the student to hand in school work under that name) is in violation of state law. The same is true of using the correct pronoun.

Bathroom access

All students have a right to safe and appropriate restroom facilities. This includes the right to use a restroom that corresponds to the student's gender identity. Failing to allow a student access to the correct restroom is a violation of state law.

Not every student will feel comfortable at all times in a particular restroom. While the school has an obligation to ensure that the restrooms are safe for all students, you should also encourage your school to identify at least one (and preferably several) single stall bathrooms as unisex. This way, any student who feels uncomfortable in a multi-stall restroom can have access to increased privacy.

Dress codes

Nothing in the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act prohibits a school from implementing otherwise lawful dress codes. However, any dress code that does exist must be applied equally to all students regardless of their gender identity. Occasionally, school officials will more closely scrutinize the style of dress of a transgender or gender non-conforming student as a way of controlling the way that student looks. Holding a student to a different standard of dress simply based on that student's gender identity is unlawful.

Harassment

In addition to discrimination, school districts are required to prevent gender and sexual orientation based harassment in their schools. This harassment may come from other students, teachers, or other school employees. Not only must school officials respond appropriately when a student informs them of harassment, but school officials are also required to take steps to make their campuses safe places for all students.

Obviously, slurs are a form of

harassment, as are verbal or physical threats. In addition, failing to respect a student's gender identity in the way the student is addressed or discussed can also be harassment. While occasional slips in the use of names and/or pronouns is unlikely to rise to the level of harassment, intentional and persistent failure to recognize a student's gender identity can.

The role of students in making schools safer

Individual students and student clubs, such as gay-straight alliance clubs, play a large role in making schools safer.

The gay-straight alliance club at Mills High School on the Peninsula recently facilitated training for teachers and staff on LGBT issues and how to make the school safer for LGBT youth. Students later distributed homophobia and transphobia awareness posters for teachers to post in their classrooms and next the Mills GSA is planning to do peer education workshops.

A female-to-male transgender student in Los Angeles was told by his middle school administrators he would stop getting beaten up if he acted and dressed more "like a girl." Just a couple of years later, now a high school student at North Hollywood, he has pressured his school administrators to change the gender marker on his school ID card to male and provide him access to the single-stall restroom in the nurse's office.

At Berkeley High School, student allies in the gay-straight alliance club advocated for a transgender girl to be able to attend a "girls only" counseling workshop on body image by showing their school administrator a copy of the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act.

Getting help for your school

One of the best things you can do for your school is get help from community advocates and allies. The California Safe Schools Coalition has released a number of guides and directives to help school districts create safe and productive learning environments. They can be found at www.gsannetwork.org/legal-faqs.html.

In addition, the GSA Network is launching a gender identity project to help student clubs and other student activists educate and organize around transgender and gender non-conforming student safety issues. To learn more, contact GSA Network at (415) 552-4229 or e-mail info@gsannetwork.org.

Finally, several groups like the Transgender Law Center, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Community United Against Violence, and Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network go into schools to talk to staff and students about gender identity issues and to help schools create and implement model policies for making their schools accessible to all students.

The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. If you have a legal question about your specific circumstances, please contact an attorney or the appropriate government agency. ▼

Carolyn Laub is director of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network; Christopher Daley is director of the Transgender Law Center.

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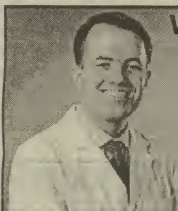
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OBITUARIES

Michael Jendritza

March 21, 1955 — March 5, 2003

Mike died late on Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2003, in his San Francisco pied-à-terre, of an accidental drug overdose. (An article entitled "Nurse dead in suspected OD" appeared in the *B.A.R.* of March 13). Mike was clean and sober for 11 months before a previous drug overdose in 1995, then remained clean and sober until last year, when he decided it was OK to have "wine with dinner." He was working mightily to deal with codependency, but sadly minimized the deadly, patient nature of his chemical dependency.

A Registered Nurse, Mike worked the last seven years at SF General Ward 5-A. He was a dedicated and respected professional, and his warmth, delightful humor and sometimes outrageous antics endeared him to nearly everyone

who met him. There is a Mikey-shaped hole in many, many hearts.

Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Mike was married for 20 years, raising two wonderful sons. During his marriage, he rehabbed six houses, and began running in races, including the Hood-to-Coast 2-day relay which he missed only once. He came out in 1994, met John Marshall at AA in 1995. They moved to San Francisco in 1996 where they transformed an old house into Church Street Bed & Breakfast, which they started and ran for three years. Then they followed the crowd to Palm Springs, where they rejuvenated a mid-century house; Mike commuted every other week by plane to SF.

Memorials were held in Portland, at SF General, and in Palm Springs. Donations may be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund or to SFGH 5A Patient Care Fund. For further information write GayJohnnie@aol.com

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number and must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Cartoonist Michael Goldberg dies at 51

by Robert Triptow

David Dimpleton! It's been at least an hour!" That's how Michael J. Goldberg always greeted me, whether it had been five minutes or five years. The line was from an underground comic we both loved, and the heart of our friendship was participating in the San Francisco comics scene and, more so, *Gay Comix*.

Mr. Goldberg died in Portland, Oregon on March 5. He was 51.

Mr. Goldberg was known in *Gay Comix* for his funny, finny "Swishy Fishy" cartoons. Most readers would see that gentle, storybook silliness and not realize it was the work of a top-rate satirist and sublime artist with an impressive portfolio. They wouldn't know about the magazine covers and psychedelic posters, Christmas ornaments, and needlepoint designs. In San Francisco, he created one of the best Haight Street Fair posters, painted public murals, and did amazing things with stained glass. After *Gay Comix* he published books on collectibles, wrote a novel, and continued to cartoon whenever asked.

Mr. Goldberg was one of those art-for-art's-sake creators who flourished in the post-hippie San Francisco of the 1970s and early 1980s, when rents were relatively affordable and an artist could live comfortably enough on a menial job. A Philadelphia native, he graduated from the Maryland Fine Arts Institute and dug Baltimore's "pocket of hipness" until his coming-out and coming out to California in 1979, where he lived until 1991.

He was also a cultural pioneer of sorts. Some of the little domes-



Michael Goldberg

tic comedies in shows like *Will & Grace*, for instance, were foreshadowed 15 to 20 years ago in Swishy Fishy's yearning for Orca Daddy. He was a gay cartoonist before *Gay Comix*; his cartoons "Cloned-erella" and "The Elves and the Leathermaker" had gone underappreciated in the gay tabloids. It didn't quite discourage him, and he became one of the forces of gay cartooning in the 1980s, whether or not the readers knew it.

We prided ourselves in the fact that *Gay Comix* was (and still is, come to think of it) the only GLBT humor publication that didn't focus on sex, showbiz, sex, politics, sex, coming-out stories, sex, and sex. We were set free by underground cartooning, which didn't care about demographics or mainstream audiences or preconceived notions.

But mostly, we had fun. To spend time with Mr. Goldberg in those days was to inevitably scream with laughter. He and I collaborat-

ed on "Wee-Wee's Gayhouse," the only piece I've worked on that makes me laugh to this day.

He knew everything about junk culture and kitsch. In Baltimore, Mr. Goldberg knew the John Waters crowd and began huge dinnerware and children's book collections at Divine Trash and Edith's Shopping Bag. In San Francisco, he and Trina Robbins and I would hit every sidewalk sale in town, and Mr. Goldberg was so knowledgeable that it was no surprise that living in Oregon after *Gay Comix*, he published authoritative texts like *Collectible Plastic Kitchenware and Dinnerware 1935-65*, *Groovy Kitchen Designs for Collectors 1935-65*, *The Ties That Bind: Neckties 1945-75*, *The Collectible '70s: A Price Guide to the Polyester Decade*, books on Maxfield Parrish, Vargas, French postcards, and the novel *A Wealthy Couple Parted*.

Mr. Goldberg's collecting mania spilled over into politics, in a way. He found an unintentionally hilarious but totally forgotten LP from the 1960s — Teddy and Darrel's *These Are the Hits, You Silly Savage!!!* — which I played on KPFA radio's *Fruit Punch* show, mentioning that it had been produced by Mike Curb, then the conservative lieutenant governor of California. When these productions hurt Curb's right-wing standing during his later campaign for governor, we gave credit to Mr. Goldberg for unearthing them.

A memorial service for Mr. Goldberg will be held in Portland, Oregon on May 5.

If there's any kind of afterlife, I know the first thing I'll hear him say, "David Dimpleton! It's been at least an hour!" ▼

guys caught up in some pretty extraordinary circumstances," Imler told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"It appears the federal government is using the likelihood of long, mandatory prison terms, and the shock of the Ed Rosenthal conviction earlier this year, to coerce other medical marijuana providers to plead guilty to federal charges before they have even been indicted," said Keith Stroup of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

In related news, on March 10 a federal judge in San Francisco denied a preliminary injunction blocking the U.S. government from prosecuting medical cannabis users in California. Ruling on a lawsuit filed by medical marijuana patients Angel McClary Raich and Diane Mon-

son, U.S. District Judge Martin Jenkins said federal law prohibited him from issuing the injunction.

"Despite the gravity of the plaintiffs' need for medical cannabis, and despite the concrete interest of California to provide it for individuals like them, the court is constrained from granting their request," wrote the judge.

Raich, who uses cannabis to relieve pain, nausea, wasting, and seizures related to brain cancer and other conditions, called the verdict "a travesty and a miscarriage of justice." She said she would appeal the ruling and would continue to use medical cannabis. "I will continue to use my medicine," she said, "and if the government does not like it they know where I live, and they can come and get me." ▼

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LA cannabis

◀ page 4

time of the raid, LACRC was serving 960 patients.

Last November the U.S. attorney informed the defendants that criminal charges would be forthcoming unless they agreed to plead guilty, Imler said. The charges carry a sentence of up to 20 years and a fine of \$500,000. Imler said he hopes that in consideration of the plea-bargain, a lighter penalty will be imposed. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for this summer.

"While we'd all like to fancy ourselves as courageous, heroic, social justice crusaders and go to trial, no matter the outcome, the reality is that we're just regular

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Parking lots

by Jim Provenzano

San Francisco got a new form of hybrid sport last Friday when the loose army of cyclists participating in Critical Mass toured downtown streets, ending their route at Pacific Bell Park, where the San Francisco Giants were hosting an exhibition baseball game.

The herd of cyclists, combining war protest with the ever-topical issue of cycling awareness and occasionally joyful urban chaos, had only occasionally been confronted by angry motorists. Having witnessed one fender/heel-bender with a friend, I was amused to hear from him later, as the route wound up looping through the Castro, that the motorist had punched a policeman and been arrested. Road rage, indeed.

Mostly, the event remained festive and fun, with some political chants and music provided by a wheeled DJ. I'm sure many readers who commute or drive are grinding their teeth at such pro-Critical Mass scribbles, but as a regular cyclist, it is one of few empowering times when there is safety in numbers.

One gentleman decided that our leisurely ride through the balmy night would not interrupt his need to get home after a plush meal at some swanky restaurant on the Embarcadero. His ill-advised dart into a cluster of cyclists left his shining Jaguar unscathed, if not unscorned.

"Jaguar, jerk you are!" one cyclist shouted, mentioning that if one were to be hit, it might as well be by the ostentatiously wealthy.

Working class resentment of Critical Mass was no different, but certainly expressed differently. As riders wound slowly around the back walkway of Pac Bell Park, I felt like an early Christian running the gauntlet in the Coliseum, as Giants fans from above responded in true patriotic fashion by tossing beer and cigarette butts.

San Francisco police proved somewhat restrained through the night, blocking traffic and pro-

tecting the walls of Pac Bell Park from suspected vandals. They didn't know that those pesky anarchists can't ride bikes and spray-paint at the same time.

Free speech, on both sides of the gate thrived, the game went on, as did the cyclists. Info: www.critical-mass.org or www.sf-bike.org.

A later adventure to Oakland led us to drive home (yes, in a car) via the Fell Street exit, the night before it closed forever.

It should be noted that while it's impossible to delineate one's peace activism with disdain for Saddam Hussein's regime to many who follow lockstep with the Bush Doctrine, it's

worth noting that among the places allegedly accurately bombed this week was the Iraq Olympic compound. Hussein's crazed son, who ran the country's athletic teams, is reported to have tortured Iraqi athletes, particularly soccer players, who failed to deliver victory.

Clash of the Titans

As all sorts of people celebrated the start of the pro baseball season, gay and lesbian softball got under way last weekend, with a bevy of mayoral wannabes tossing out pitches.

Ray Delgado manages the San Francisco Titans, one of three teams from the Bay Area that trekked to Sydney for Gay Games VI.

Now in his fifth season with the Gay Softball League, Delgado played softball and baseball growing up in Los Angeles, most often as a pitcher.

"I was into it as a social outlet, recreationally," he said.

Social and sporting opportunities were plentiful in Sydney for GLBT softballers.

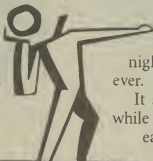
"We decided to go in the beginning of 2002," said Delgado. "Everyone was really up for going. We didn't want to wait four years. Most of us had been playing in the league in different teams. We had 10 regulars and three people who joined to fill in."

Softball games were held at the Olympic practice fields in Homebush.

"One morning we had to get up really early," said Delgado. "The whole experience was a bit of a hassle. They tried to accommodate us. We were scheduled for earlier games three of four days, so we asked the organizers, and ended up with just the one game early in the day."

But some scheduling conflicts affected other teams' attendance.

"Two teams in our pools had to forfeit, another didn't show up,"

Sports
Complex

Critical Mass scores a home run

said Delgado. "Another was an aboriginal team with four to six players, but they never had a complete team. We ended up playing four or eight games."

The Titans also had a few issues with how the games were run.

"The organization left something to be desired," he said. "It became apparent that the Aussie umpires didn't really know American softball very well. The officiating was incredibly frustrating. They were calling fast pitch softball for slo-pitch games. I walked the first three guys and tried to figure out what was going on. I would pitch flat, and he would call them strikes. They weren't very familiar with U.S. softball. We thought it might be like Olympic softball. They did the best they could, and were always friendly. We let it slide, and tried to have a good experience."

Despite the disappointment, he said, "We had fun. It was great to be playing. We made it to the medal competition."

The Titans placed fourth in the men's division. Another San Francisco team, the Aftershock, knocked them into bronze contention against the Los Angeles Batboys.

Other teams they played were from Dallas, Vancouver, and London, a crew that Delgado said was "a lot of fun to play with."

Ten members of his team went to Fort Douglas by Cairns, and the Great Barrier Reef before the tournament. "That was great."

But during the Games, they had to play five days, "so it was hard to get out and see other events."

Delgado had registered to play some tennis as well, but scheduling prohibited his court competition.

The Titans will continue playing through the local softball season.

"We've already been talking about fundraising for Montreal. There'll be a lot more American umpires, so it'll be a different experience for us."

For info on the Titans, visit www.SfTitans.com. For info on the local softball tournaments, visit www.sfgsl.org or call (415) 436-0707.

French dressing

"Zut alors!" Anti-French attitudes are running rampant here in

Jingo Land, so what better way to show your support for "Liberté" than a little French kissing, French dip, or even some "haute couture?"

It's that time of year again for the Little Black Dress Run. This will be the fourth year for the drag race of drag races.

FrontRunner clubs from the West Coast have been invited, and anyone who wants to have fun at this free event is encouraged to scare up a lovely black dress or skirt and get jogging in style!

The San Francisco FrontRunners and Baylands FrontRunners and Walkers are co-hosting the April 12 event.

The 5K run starts and finishes at the Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park. Start time is 9 a.m. Following the run through the park, coffee, juice, and pastries will be served to all.

Prizes will be awarded to the best female and best male outfits, with other prizes awarded for various accessories.

"The competition has been pretty intense the last three years," said organizer Anne Ludwig. "Participants should choose their outfits carefully. We invite anyone who likes the combination of fun and exercise to join us."

Think of it as a preview for Bay to Breakers, but without the nude people. Info: www.sffrontrunners.org.

Talking heads

Last weekend also saw the first Gay and Lesbian Athletics conference, held in Boston and Cambridge. More than 200 people attended the groundbreaking event, which included panels and talks by some renowned out lesbian and gay people in sports administration, the Women's Sports Foundation, and in sports academics.

Although on the advisory panel, I did not attend. One didn't have to be a psychic friend to figure we'd be at war by now. Traveling again only to have my sneakers scanned five times a day wasn't on my to-do list.

Nevertheless, the sports conference might lead to some informative articles and news. Several TV and film crews were said to have done interviews. Anything to distract us from Bushco's "in-bed" media-trailed holy war. Info: www.gayconference.org.

next page ►

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CLASSIFIEDS

Jay Leno takes on Mark Leno's 'Woman of the Year'

by Joe Dignan

Transgender activist Theresa Sparks and Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) are challenging *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno to publicly explain the comment he made on his nightly talk show after Sparks was named a California "Woman of the Year" by Assemblyman Leno.

In his monologue on his NBC show Monday, March 31, Jay Leno said that the California Assembly "awarded a man who had a sex change as its Woman of the Year. When he accepted the award, he said there was a part of him that didn't want to accept it—but that's gone now."

Both Assemblyman Leno and Sparks have challenged Jay Leno to put them on the show to put a face to the freak-show stereotype they say he is fostering with the remark.

"I'm changing my last name," quipped the openly gay assemblyman, who is not related to the talk show host, "but I'll be happy to debate the issue with Mr. Leno at any time."

The *Tonight Show* refused to comment for record about the off-color crack, but a *Tonight Show* insider told the *Bay Area Reporter* that with an 8- to 10-minute monologue to fill every night, "we're bound to offend someone."

Jay Leno directly defended his remark in a phone call to the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, telling its chair, Vaneesa Edwards Foster, that he wanted

to highlight Sparks's accomplishment, and then make fun of her.

"Yeah right," said Sparks. "Jay Leno characterizes himself as a good Hollywood liberal, but he sure doesn't look that way today."

Some LGBT advocacy groups are irate about the comment.

"Jay Leno felt it was okay to belittle transsexuals," said NTAC's Edwards Foster. "His remarks took what was an historic recognition for an accomplished transgender community leader and summarily diminished them with insensitive humor."

In a letter of protest to Jay Leno, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said that with very little coverage of transgender people in the media, every joke, comment, or news story impacts the entire community.

"When a transgender person is the object of a joke, the message is clear that they are freakish and deserving of ridicule," said Scott Seomin, GLAAD's entertainment media director.

"He never speaks to a transgendered audience nor has transgenderers as guests," added Edwards Foster.

The same *Tonight Show* insider said that Jay Leno checked the joke with a male-to-female transgender staff member, who passed on it.

"I don't think he understands the complexities of transgender issues," said GLAAD's Monica Taher. "It's absolutely ignorance. He's pretty fair when it comes to gay and lesbian issues, but this is going to be a lesson for him." ▼

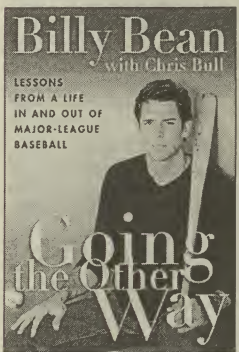
Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Bean counts

One of the celebrity panelists at the conference was former San Diego Padres baseball player Billy Bean, whose post-career coming out charmed a nation eager for a cute bat-swinging role model.

Despite Bean's minor career in the majors, his story remains fascinating, and his autobiography, co-written with the esteemed journalist and author Chris Bull, is now out on the shelves.



Going the Other Way: Lessons from a Life in and out of Major-League Baseball (Marlowe & Co.), is already selling well.

"Billy Bean's book is candid, generous, and courageous. It adds a new dimension to the world of sports literature," writes Jim Bouton, former Yankee pitcher and author of *Ball Four*, in a cover blurb.

I still fondly recall reading the slightly homoerotic passages of Bouton's book, *Ball Four*. Bean's book promises to be not so much

sexy as painfully honest, considering his deeply repressed life before and during his athletic career.

Bean's former roommate, the utterly gorgeous Brad Ausmus, now the catcher for the Houston Astros, calls "this gut-wrenching story... an amazing triumph of character over consequences. Billy Bean is an inspiration."

Bean takes us from the dusty fields of his youth to the College World Series to the minor league playing diamonds of Glens Falls and Toledo to his first game for the Tigers (he tied the record for most hits in a major league debut), and winter-ball seasons in Latin America.

Bean played major league baseball from 1987 to 1995 for the Detroit Tigers, Los Angeles Dodgers, and San Diego Padres. Born in Santa Ana, California, in 1964, Bean was a multi-sport star at Santa Ana High School, where he was selected valedictorian of his graduating class and went on to become an All-American outfielder twice before graduating from Loyola Marymount University in 1986. He now lives in Miami Beach, Florida with his partner, Efrain Veiga.

I haven't read the book yet, as my to-read list is a bit backlogged (currently on my bedside table, *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*, a book that's strangely timely yet again). But I'm recommending it for gay readers curious about baseball, gay fans of baseball, and gay readers who still expect me to out those gay baseball players, but don't know why I won't.

Going the Other Way should be available at A Different Light and other bookstores near you. ▼

To read other gay sports stuff, visit www.sportscomplex.org.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0265024-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Foolsbury Theater, 3529 21st Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3026. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Ben Yalom, Artistic Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/04/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265082-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: New Easy Int. Co. 941 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ginhwa Lin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 06, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265111-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 365, Inc. 330 Townsend Street #109, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed J. McGrath, VP. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 20, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265051-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: JayMay Association, 388 Beale Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by co-partners signed William J. Clark and Lish N. May. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 03, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265160-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rugged Elegance, LLC, 1100 Broderick Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Jennifer C. King and Timothy C. Fredel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 07, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/10/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265184-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hai Chao, 402 8th Suite 203, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hai Chao Huang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 10, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/10/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265176-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Club 101, 101 Sixth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed John G. Kovacs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/10/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265118-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: New York Street Cafe, 600 York Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lena Jweinat. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265194-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Elan LaLonde Ceramics, 29 Alert, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Elan LaLonde. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 3, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/10/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 03540616

In the Matter of the Application of Laura Grace Lee For change of Name. The application of Laura Grace Lee for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Laura Grace Lee has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Laura Grace Kogen. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 01 day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265045-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Z-Club Radio Control Cars And Accessories, 219 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Derek Chu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/04/2003.

MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265258-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Conscious Chiropractic & Acupuncture, 220 Montgomery Ste. 305 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Amy Michelle Paris, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 12, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265266-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Turbo Hardware, 1344 La Playa Street #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul D. Constantine. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265144-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Banana's, 191 Pine Street San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Vena Shottiveyaratana. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 7, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265142-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: La Czar Enterprises- International, 355 Octavia Street #31, San Francisco, Ca. 94102-5816. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard S. La Czar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 7, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265126-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: EyeCare America, EyeCare America, A Public Service Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, 655 Beach Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a Nonprofit corporation (501(c) (3) sub-fund of Minnesota nonprofit corp.) signed Brad A. Wong, Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265290-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fresh Catch 24 Willie Mays Plaza San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Michael Collins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/13/2003.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE: CASE NUMBER:

PES-03-284380

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Alma Pachello (decedent). A Petition for Probate has been filed by V. Kathy Holland Smith, in the Superior Court of California, San Francisco Superior Court 400 McAllister Street, Room 204, San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4514. County of San Francisco. The Petition for Probate requests that V. Kathy Holland Smith be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. A Hearing on the petition will be held on Wednesday April 16, 2003 in the Probate Department at 9:00am, room #204, 400 McAllister Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4514.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objection with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner is: Thomas M. Schneider, BAR # 141023. Address: 3200 Inland Empire Blvd. #235, Ontario, Ca. 91764. (909) 484-2002. The Petitioner is: V. Kathy Holland Smith. MARCH 20, 27, APRIL 3, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC CNC-03-540643

In the Matter of the Application of Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus For change of Name. The application of Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jamey Jacobus Moore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC CNC-03-540615

In the Matter of the Application of Mandy Lee Van Zylveld For change of Name. The application of Mandy Lee Van Zylveld for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Mandy Lee Van Zylveld has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Amanda Lee Nelson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 01 day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC CNC-03-540644

In the Matter of the Application of Carole Ann Renselaer For change of Name. The application of Carole Ann Renselaer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Carole Ann Renselaer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carole Renselaer Moore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONTRACTOR SERVICES TO PERFORM ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND REMEDIATION AT FORMER NAVAL STATION TREASURE ISLAND SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

The RFQ will be available on Monday March 17, 2003 from the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA), 410 Palm Avenue, San Francisco, CA. A pre-bid orientation meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday March 28, 2003 in Building 271 (Casa de la Vista), Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA. Qualifications in response to this request are due no later than 12:00 p.m. noon on Tuesday April 22, 2003. Questions regarding this RFQ may be addressed to Stephen Proud, Deputy Director, at the Authority office (415/274-0660).

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care. (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

WIC PROGRAM

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bimonthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS - INVITATION FOR BIDS.

Request for proposals for printing official Optech Ballots for San Francisco Department of Elections. Due 5:00 p.m., April 25, 2003. Bids available in Room 48, City Hall. Pre-bid conference April 4, 2003 10:30 p.m. in City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl. Rm 48. (415) 554-4375.

SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF public hearing. Notice is hereby given, that a public hearing is scheduled to discuss the proposed SF LAFCo 2003-2004 Fiscal Year Budget pursuant to Government Code Section 56381. There will be other matters considered by the Commission at the April 25, 2003, meeting which will be noticed separately. <http://www.sfgov.org/lafco> www.sfgov.org/lafco.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE Department of Building Inspection's Brown Bag Lunch Talks at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 P.M.

The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided.

April 17, 2003

The Permit Process in San Francisco

Technical Services Division and Planning Department

NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials hand out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE 0265399-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Golden Shears 4974 Mission St. San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rosa R. Metcalf. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/19/2003.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540639

In the Matter of the Application of Kirsten Maria Konigsmark For change of Name. The application of Kirsten Maria Konigsmark for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kirsten Maria Konigsmark has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to - Kirsten Maria Riccardi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540621

In the Matter of the Application of Elizabeth Nicoloff Baum For change of Name. The application of Elizabeth Nicoloff Baum for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Nicoloff Baum has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Elizabeth Nicoloff Barrett. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 05th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540659

In the Matter of the Application of Julito McStay Ong For change of Name. The application of Julito McStay Ong for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Julito McStay Ong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Julito Jules McStay Ong. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 02nd day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265623-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Constable Antique Lighting 366 Tenth Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Todd Alan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 26, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/26/2003.

APR. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265618-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Muang Thai Thai Cuisine, 385 Taylor Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wonchalum Akomboon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/26/2003.

APR. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003



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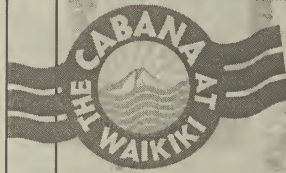
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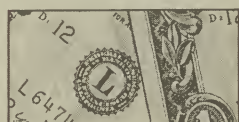
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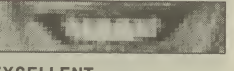
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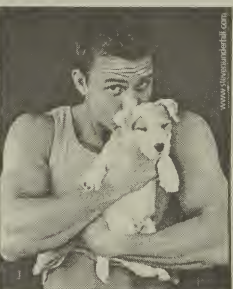
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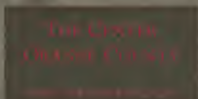
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Drama queen nonpareil
Dramatic writings by playwright, novelist,
activist and great gay icon Larry Kramer.
page 33

Reality pornovision
Spontaneous sexuality in
Titan's 'ManPlay' series.
page 35



London calling
Report from the theatre
of London's West End.
page 27



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 14 • 3 April 2003

Joel Schumacher, right,
on the set of *Phone Booth*,
which stars Colin Farrell,
far right.

Joel Schumacher is on the line

Gay director puts Colin Farrell in a 'Phone Booth'

by David Lamble

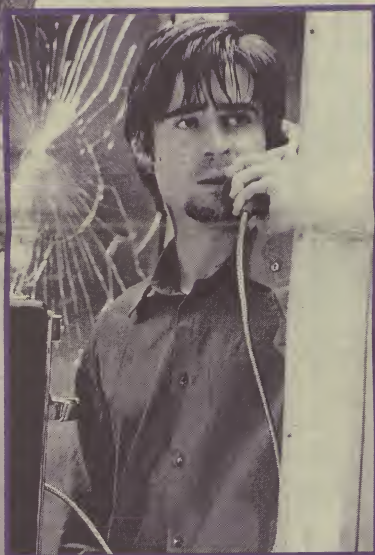
Dressed for success (black suit, no tie, raspberry-sorbet shirt open at the collar), a young man steps into a phone booth, removes his wedding ring, and places it on top of the instrument. The call to his mistress, an ambitious young actress, is a pleasant daily ritual, and his wife, not seeing the calls on their cell-phone statement, will be none the wiser. His guilty pleasure complete, the man is about to leave the booth when the phone rings. The voice on the other end is cultivated, intimate, insinuating — the voice of a killer.

"You hear a phone ring, and it could be anybody, but a ringing phone has to be answered."

In the new thriller *Phone Booth*, director Joel Schumacher and writer Larry Cohen reinvent Sidney Falco (Tony Curtis' craven press agent in *Sweet Smell of Success*) in the form of a foul-talking, attention-deficit-driven power junkie named Stu Shepard (Colin Farrell). With an unpaid assistant barking at his heels, Stu swaggers through his office. Plugs in his column are like drops of water in a desert: basketball tickets for a beat cop, soothing words for a paranoid rapper, tough love to a greasy club-owner.

Stu, like a character out of Hitchcock, is about to encounter the suspense di-

page 31 ►



All-American modern dance

Paul Taylor Dance Company romps at Yerba Buena

by Michael Wade Simpson

The Paul Taylor Dance Company is like an advertisement for America. While the other senior white male American modern dance choreographer, Merce Cunningham (whom the French love), offers up cool abstraction and virtuosic automaton dancers, Taylor's men look like Abercrombie & Fitch models, and the women are these perky, cheerleader types who dance with tidy perfection and know how to be funny. Sounds like the cast of *Oklahoma*, doesn't it? Like I said, American.

While a Cunningham piece will be thematically opaque, not only abstract but coming at you, in most cases, with music that is either improvised, assaultive or both, Taylor's pieces are pretty crowd-pleasers, with hummable music and themes as broad and clear as a cornfield in July. Last Wednesday night at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the company offered a French piece, a hippie piece, and a 9/11 piece.

"Offenbach Overtures" was a consummate

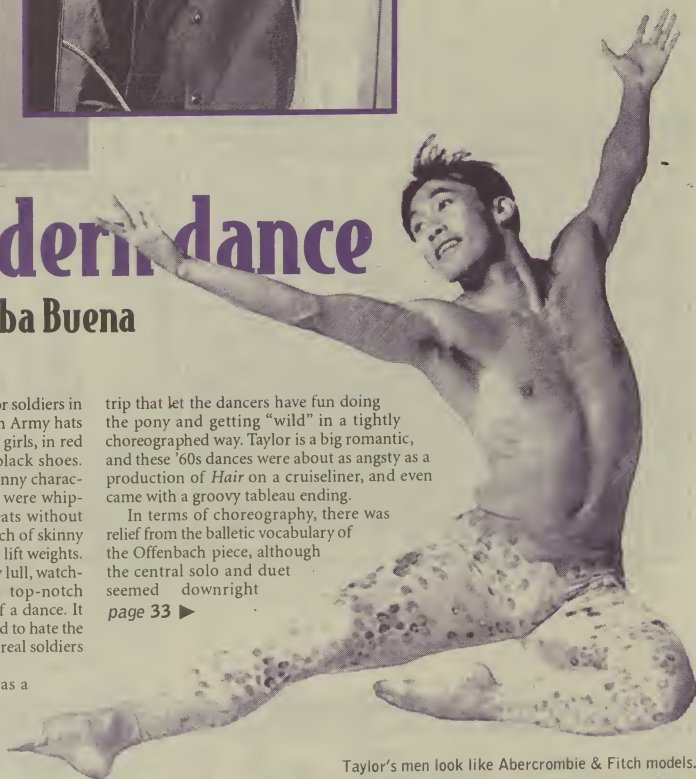
curtain-raiser, a waltz-time romp for soldiers in red tights and Napoleon-era French Army hats (also red) who flirted with can-can girls, in red skirts and cute little half-heeled black shoes. This was ballet lite, with fun and funny character-dancing by the cast of 14, who were whipping off technically challenging feats without being able to offer the line and stretch of skinny girls on pointe, or of guys who don't lift weights. Mostly you fall into a kind of happy lull, watching all the precision of Taylor's top-notch dancers performing this bonbon of a dance. It makes you forget that we're supposed to hate the French, that wars are ugly, and that real soldiers don't dance.

Similarly, "A Field of Grass" was a feel-good delusion, a slanted look at the '60s, with a suite of flower-pop Harry Nilsson songs, bell-bottom blue jeans, and love. It was a happy

trip that let the dancers have fun doing the pony and getting "wild" in a tightly choreographed way. Taylor is a big romantic, and these '60s dances were about as angsty as a production of *Hair* on a cruiseliner, and even came with a groovy tableau ending.

In terms of choreography, there was relief from the balletic vocabulary of the Offenbach piece, although the central solo and duet seemed downright

page 33 ►



Taylor's men look like Abercrombie & Fitch models.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

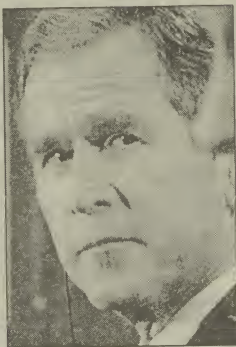
Triumph of the reptilian mind

Bush and his minions offer Unreality TV

by Roberto Friedman

It was hard not to notice a certain defensiveness creeping into televised briefings from the Defense Department last week. One general admitted that the war was not going nearly as smoothly as their war games had anticipated (maybe because war isn't a game?), while another lamented that the military's expectations of being greeted by Iraqis bearing candy hearts and flowers weren't exactly being met.

None of this fazed the Commander in Chief, however, who met reporters at a press availability in Camp David with sneering assertions that he wasn't focused on timetables but on victory; and testily reiterated that "ally after ally" had joined our war. Mauri-



Clock ticks on one-term president.

tania, anyone?

Bush's outlook, so completely divorced from the gruesome real-

ity of launching a terrible and elective assault, seems rooted in the basest, most primitive precincts of the human mind, in the kill-or-be-killed mentality we inherited from our reptilian forebears. He's no inspiration to us. No wonder our nation never elected him.

Marquee writing

In the annals of war journalism, it's sometimes hard to tell the naked from the dead, but it's easy to tell the straight from the gay.

Here's "Press Clips" columnist **Cynthia Cotts** in the *Village Voice*: "Civilization is said to have been born between the Tigris and Euphrates, and last week it seems to have crawled back there to curl up and die. On March 19, when President Bush launched his preemptive strike on Iraq, the media responded with their own blitzkrieg, a kaleidoscope of images that shifted quickly from fireworks over Baghdad to forlorn Iraqi children to US prisoners of war. The hawks hoped to inspire 'shock and awe,' but no civilized person could watch this drama unfold without feeling sadness and rage."

Great gay author **James McCourt**, on the *New York Times* Op-Ed page, found the gay-icon angle: "Chicago is said to be an escape movie of the sort once popular in wartime. So, here's to **Queen Latifah** and peace in our time. Of course, **Betty Grable**, the pinup girl of World War II, was, like **Rita Hayworth** and **Ava Gardner**, a goddess in true form. Queen Latifah is not a goddess. She is a superior nymph."

Irish cream

In a drooly feature entitled, "It doesn't take much to be a bad boy," sexy Irish actor (and Hollywood's next Great White Hope) **Colin Farrell** tells entertainment columnist **Andrew Billen** of the

London *Times* all the seminal details.

Billen: "Perhaps he favours one-night stands because he fears emotional involvement?" [This is Billen's pretentious use of the third person, not ours.]

Farrell: "No. I just love sex."

B: "To an unusual degree?"

F: "No."

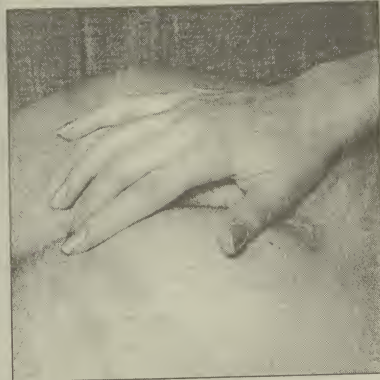
I don't think I'm ever going to stand up in a room of strangers and say, 'Hi, I'm Colin Farrell, and I'm addicted to sex.'"

B: "So he's just a healthy young man?"

F: "Exactly. If I don't whack off twice a day, I'm feckin' bumping into walls!"



Out There



Details feature 'Up Yours' touts male diddling.

the double-page spread, shows a fingernail-painted feminine hand spreading a hairy man's back slot with fingers two and three. It's probably the closest you're ever going to get to actual diddling short of publications with titles like *RN Dominatrices*. Thanks as ever, *Details*. That complimentary subscription sure is paying off!

Bye bye, Bonetti

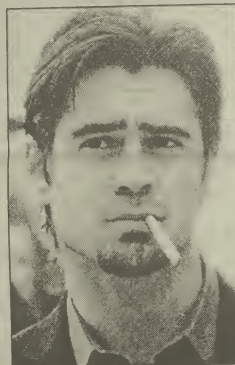
The Bay Area loses an important and discerning voice in the arts this month as former *SF Examiner* and *SF Chronicle* art critic and *BAR* contributor **David Bonetti** moves to St. Louis to take up his new post as critic at the venerable old *Post-Dispatch*. Out There is proud to say we've been a FOB (Friend of Bo's) for at least a dozen years, ever since he first chatted us up at a press preview at the old SFMOMA. (Was it for gay Canadian art collective **General Idea**? We think it was.)



Bonetti at peace march last month

You couldn't want a more terrific guide to the world of fine arts, and we feel very lucky to have heard Bonetti out, lo, these many years. But you don't have to know him personally to feel that way, because his enthusiasm for the work of contemporary artists and his wide knowledge of art history are both clearly expressed in his writing. You only had to read him to know him. His is that rare gift: expertise without pedantry.

The *Post-Dispatch* was founded by **Joseph Pulitzer**, whose name festoons the famous prize for American journalism. A few generations removed, **Mrs. Emily Pulitzer** is said to read the paper's arts coverage avidly with every morning's tea and crumpets. She is in for a treat in the work of her new hire; and in the Bay and proudly Gay Area, he will be greatly missed. ▼



Colin Farrell bumps into walls.

Can you believe what's considered proper interview material in the British press? We're shocked and awed. And we can't wait to go back!

Digital press

Details watch: Dramatic editorial shift in the April edition! After an early raising of the homo flagpole in the form of a full-page ad (opposite the masthead: coincidence?) featuring a headless torso, bare-chested and -abbed, his booty clad in snug Nautica underpants, there's nary a whisper of gay innuendo throughout the obligatory surfer feature and an endless **Vin Diesel** puff-piece. (What do you call a puff-piece with a huge chest in a tight V-neck T-shirt? At *Details*, you call that cover material!) All those pub-shaving tips from gay guys we've cited from previous issues? Vanished into thin air.

Then suddenly, on p. 172 (five pages from magazine's end) appears: the hairy crack of a man's ass! In the feature entitled "Up Yours," we learn some late-breaking news: "A mounting body of evidence suggests that many, many straight men enjoy the occasional finger in the rear." *Details* qualifies its astonishing scoop: "But just try finding a guy who'll admit it!"

The accompanying photo, which spills into the, um, gutter of

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THEATRE

Anthropology of the West End

Ten days of theater-going in London's cultural district

by Richard Dodds

The only storm clouds over an unseasonably sunny London during 10 days in March were those that presaged The War. But England is surely the best place to be an American abroad these days, and a theater-busy vacation was uninterrupted by any animosity from Londoners, who themselves were trying to make sense of their own prime minister's embrace of the Bush doctrine.

Still, it was somewhat surreal to be shuttling between *Taboo*, the Boy George bio-musical, and *We Will Rock You*, a sci-fi extravaganza created from the Queen songbook, just as Leicester Square newsstands erupted with "War Has Begun" headlines. The juxtaposition of the bombastic Queen lyrics declaring "we are the champions of the world" amid the real-life theatrics of "shock and awe" was a wee bit eerie.

Theater, of course, asks you to give yourself over to its artificial world, and even though new resonances occasionally emerge (as they should) in the wake of world events, it was still possible to attend nine quixotically chosen West End productions with most of the usual glee of a theater-loving American at large in London.

While there are bona fide hits on the London boards, none are of the must-see-before-Broadway variety once dominated by the likes of *Cats*, *Les Miz*, and *Phantom*. Almost all the West End shows were selling prime seats at the half-price booth in Leicester Square, and for the several shows that could bypass the booth, good seats could still be had at the box office just a day or two in advance.

We Will Rock You was one of the full-price productions, and it was worth it, if only for the full-out performances of Queen's already theatrical anthems, and for the high-tech razzle-dazzle used to present them. The goofy story and cornball jokes created by the usually imaginative TV writer Ben Elton are quite another matter.

While Freddie Mercury is deified in the course of the musical, the story makes no acknowledgment of anything but heterosexuality in a future where real music is banned by a Big Brother government. And even the heterosexuality is retro, in a guys-and-their-chicks sort of way.

At least *Bombay Dreams*, another of the hard tickets, has a tranny character who is treated with surprising respect. Opulently produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the musical tries to combine India's Bollywood styles with Western musical theater, and winds up as a diverting muddle.

A handsome slum-dweller in Bombay becomes an overnight screen sensation, gets involved in a crooked beauty pageant, and then returns to his roots to stop a mercenary developer from razing the old 'hood. The songs aren't very memorable, save the insistent dance tune "Shakalaka Baby," and the book doesn't know whether it's recreating or satirizing a Bollywood musical.

'Bang' gang

Elaborate stage hydraulics seem to have become ubiquitous in Lon-



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, based on the MGM musical, plays the Palladium.

don's big musicals, and while *We Will Rock You* and *Bombay Dreams* both have impressive machinery moving up and down and out, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* wins the hydraulics derby. Based on the 1968 MGM screen musical that was trying to play Disney's game, the expensive stage adaptation is now inspired by Disney's own legit successes.

Instead of a flying governess, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* is about a flying car that only works if you say please and thank you. Its eccentric widower inventor, his kids, and his new lady friend must fend off a pair of bumbling spies from Vulgaria trying to hijack the car for their sputtering king.

The kids around me seemed to get periodically restless with the drawn-out plot, and with the string of largely unmemorable songs by the Sherman brothers, who also scored *Mary Poppins*, and who seemed to have searched their trunk to pad out their original score. Still, the enterprise is not without its charm, and I'll always award a few extra points anytime you put a flying automobile on stage.

Along with hydraulics, London theater is rife with pyrotechnics. The most unexpected source of onstage fireworks is in the one-woman play *My Brilliant Divorce*. Bottle rockets and Roman candles explode on each anniversary of the divorce of our heroine, who is played by the hugely ingratiating Dawn French (of French and Saunders). Geraldine Aron's play is entertaining, but no more original than, say, *Shirley Valentine*. Yet the chance to spend an evening with French makes it totally worthwhile.

For his final production as artistic director of the Royal National Theatre, Trevor Nunn has staged *Love's Labour's Lost* with a battlefield framing device replete with heat-producing explosions.

But at the center is a lovely, bucolic production in the National's largest theater, with Joseph Fiennes (*Shakespeare in Love*) in a strong performance as Berowne.

The Royal Shakespeare Company has abandoned its home at the Barbican Center while keeping its base in Stratford and making forays into the West End when circumstances warrant. That's the case with five seldom-seen plays from the Jacobean era, including Philip Massinger's *A Roman Actor*.

While the poetry of Shakespeare's dialogue is missing, Massinger still proved a solid storyteller with his 1626 tale of a brutally psychotic Roman emperor (a convincingly ominous Anthony Sher) whose newest wife causes jealousy among the veteran spouses. They plot their revenge when they realize the upstart missus is carrying on with an acting troupe's brawny leading man.

Playwright Massinger managed to send a message to authorities threatening theaters with censorship and closure. If we portray a corrupt politician, says the title character, it is meant to be fiction unless there is a corrupt politician among you. Parliament would soon close all the theaters.

Rise and fall

What do you imagine those righteous MPs would have thought of Boy George? *Taboo* is



Boy George as Leigh Bowery

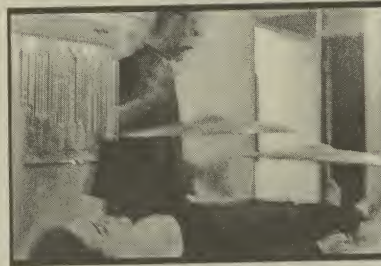
a surprisingly likable musical about the brief glory of the underground New Romantics scene that included the rise and fall of Boy George. Boy George himself wrote the mostly new pop score, and shuttles in and out of the production as Leigh Bowery, the most outré of the New Romantics.

Boy George doesn't do matinees, and this was a matinee, but no matter. The best reviews have gone to Euan Morton, who suggests the young Boy George to an uncanny degree. And Boy George is something of a supporting player in his own story, with the focus on a wholesome-type aspiring

page 29 ►



'Boy George,' 'Marilyn' in *Taboo*



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Mining the mother lode

42nd St. Moon stages 'Paint Your Wagon'

by Richard Dodds

Alan Jay Lerner was one of the great lyricists of the American musical theater. He was also a mediocre librettist, which wouldn't have been so terrible if his ego hadn't kept him at right up until the end. Even as early as 1951, with *Paint Your Wagon*, his talent at fashioning a story was clearly not his strong suit.

Paint Your Wagon is now being revived in genial fashion by 42nd Street Moon as a staged concert. The production is largely based on a rewritten script that Lerner undertook in the late '70s, but it remains a story with frustratingly diffuse focus. The California Gold Rush plot offers a little about a lot of characters.

The reason for the occasional revival of *Paint Your Wagon* is the chance to hear its songs again in their original context. Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe came up with at least four top-quality songs, several so-so tunes, and a trio of surprisingly formulaic foot-stompers with generic titles like "Whoop-Ti-Ay" and "There's a Coach Comin' In" that Jayne Zaban's usually sharper choreography can't enhance.

But the good songs get their due in director Greg MacKellan's spirited production. "I'm on My Way" and "They Call the Wind Maria" are part of the strong work provided by the ensemble of goldminers, in both cases led by the vocally gifted Joshua Powell. Dave Dobrusky, the hardworking on-stage pianist, is the production's musical director.

"Wanderin' Star," another of the score's pick hits, is evocatively performed by Kelly Houston, who warmly provides the spiritual center of the musical as veteran prospector Ben Rumson. The



The cast of *Paint Your Wagon*, revived as a stage concert at the Eureka.

melancholy "I Talk to the Trees" is sensitively performed by Marcie Henderson as Rumson's daughter and Brian Gillespie as her Mexican suitor.

Other performers making strong impressions include Amy Louise Cole as a Mormon wife sold off to the highest bidder, Michael Cronin as her polygamist husband, and Taylor Jordan as a high-kicking dance-hall girl.

With a plot made up mainly of subplots, *Paint Your Wagon* had

no strong emotional core to grip audiences. Lerner never did learn his lesson to turn over the book-writing duties to others. But fortunately, on his next show, *My Fair Lady*, he didn't mind taking a little posthumous help from a playwright named Shaw. ▼

Paint Your Wagon will run at the Eureka Theatre through April 13. Tickets are \$27 & \$29. Call 978-2787.

A-driftin' and a-griffin'



A genderbending buddy film starring local icons plays the Red Vic Movie House this week as *By Hook or By Crook* has a brief theatrical run before its release on DVD and VHS next month.

Shy (Silas Howard of the band Tribe 8) is a small-town loner who thumbs his way to San Francisco for a life of petty crime. Valentine (Harry Dodge of The Bearded Lady Café) is on a quest to find his mother. They meet; sparks fly. Dennis Conroy of the Red Vic says, "If *Midnight Cowboy's* Joe Buck and Ratzo Rizzo were transported 30 years to the dive bars of the Mission, this is what you would get."

Plays the Red Vic, 1727 Haight St., Friday through Monday, April 4-7. Info: (415) 668-3994. (Pictured, left to right: Harry Dodge, Stanya Kahn, Silas Howard.)

Gheorghiu and Alagna are up to the French classic



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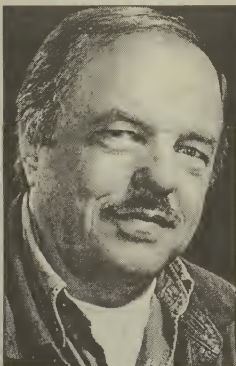
Early-music specialist Frans Brüggen had a somewhat bewildering stage presence at Davies Symphony Hall.

Concert-going life during wartime

San Francisco Symphony soldiers on

by Philip Campbell

For weeks before the war began, concertgoing at Davies Hall seemed a good escape from the impending madness, a chance for meditation and to strategize a response. Now that the conflict rages, taking time out for an evening of music almost feels like an exercise in denial. Everyone tells us that life must go on, and, of course, it will. Music still soothes the soul at the San Francisco Symphony, but it cannot stop the feelings of frustration or helplessness.



Conductor Bruno Weil: serene.

Guest conductor Bruno Weil brought us a serene program of Bach and Schubert two weeks ago, which couldn't have been more aptly timed. In his SFS debut, the recognized specialist in both composers created a brief refuge that justified his reputation and charmed listeners.

One of the two programmed Bach cantatas and a Schubert Mass also created an opportunity for Vance George's Symphony Chorus to perform during its 30th-anniversary season. George himself has led the remarkable group for 20 seasons, and its most recent outing brought another revelation that made some pleasantly surprised converts to the religious music of Schubert.

The first half of the bill was devoted to Bach. Finnish mezzo-soprano Monica Groop and baritone Christopheren Nomura were

excellent in their solo contributions. Tenor John Tessier, while agreeable, was not up to their level. Joining them in *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen* (Weeping, Wailing, Grieving, Fearing), the Chorus enunciated with exceptional clarity, adhering to Weil's authentically styled and clear-eyed interpretation.

The second cantata, *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen!* (Make a Joyful Noise unto God, all ye lands!) featured soprano Heidi Grant Murphy and trumpeter Glenn Fischthal. Murphy is an established opera star who still managed to scale her voice down for the cantata. Her pure, vibratoless tone was outstandingly attractive.

The Schubert Mass No. 5 in A-flat major received its first SFS performances, and all of the soloists returned with the Chorus, after intermission, for a heartfelt rendition. Tessier was in far surer voice, and the orchestra was given more prominence. The closing words of the *Agnus Dei*, "Give us peace," ended the evening on a particularly poignant note.

Novel positions

Last week, another early music specialist, Frans Brüggen, returned to Davies Hall. The last time he conducted the SFS was in 1979, but he brought the Orchestra of the 18th Century (which he founded in 1981) to Davies Hall during a tour in 1992. Much has changed about him in the intervening years.

His stage presence is somewhat bewildering. He appears to be a pleasant elder statesman, but not a little unlike the absent-minded professor. He also must have spent most of his rehearsal time coming up with novel positions for the orchestra. Their configuration was changed for each selection on the program.

The everlastingly quirky acoustics of Davies can benefit from some tinkering, but no matter how many ways the strings are divided, the changes usually prove almost imperceptible. Nevertheless, it was fun to see members of the viola section up-close and personal after years of virtual invisibility.

I wonder how pianist Jean-Phillippe Collard felt about his positioning in the mix. We are all

unpleasantly aware of what an embedded journalist is, but an embedded guest soloist?

If his placement bothered the self-effacing Collard, he never betrayed his displeasure. Stuck in the middle of the orchestra and facing the conductor, he actually seemed to spend more time looking at Brüggen than the keyboard anyway.

The choice of Poulenc's deliciously witty Piano Concerto dovetailed beautifully with the rest of the all-French program, and Collard was just the man for the job. The role of the jaunty boulevardier suits his elegant middle-age well, and his phrasing, with just enough sentiment and bite, suited Poulenc, too.

The concert opened with Fauré's characteristically beautiful *Masques et bergamasques*. The strings did sound especially sweet and light, though I doubt it was due to their spread on the stage.

The closing half was devoted to Brüggen's own arrangement of Rameau's Suite from *Les Indes galantes*. Elegant, inventive and delightfully melodious, Rameau's enchanting score was given a sparkling performance. Also embedded in the orchestra, soloist Jean-Pierre Van Hees played the musette, delicately folk-sounding bagpipes. He, inexplicably, was not given a solo bow.

After the Fauré, Brüggen took two calls without including the orchestra. Collard received three solo bows, but the applause died out before his colleagues could be acknowledged. Finally, at the conclusion of the Rameau, Brüggen gave the other musicians their due, but the audience (with a surprising number of empty seats) seemed restrained.

Is it possible that concertgoers were still cross with the French and found a Gallic program inappropriate, or was it simply the depression we are all experiencing in these impossible times?

Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt returns this week for his annual fortnight at Davies Hall. That should make us feel a little more like old times. He is bringing another favorite performer along. Emanuel Ax will play the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1. Life goes on, and thankfully, it still includes music. ▼

FILM

Robert Duvall's tender mercy

Writes, directs, and stars in 'Assassination Tango'

by David Lample

A man and a woman sit across a small, raised table in a Buenos Aires tango club. In the harsh sunlight, the man's chiseled features soften like rich, red clay. He's much older than we first suspected, old enough to be the young woman's grandfather. Dark-haired, fine-boned, she's a catch. Neither one talks at first.

"If I were younger, would I have a chance with you?" he blurts out finally.

"You have a chance now," she replies. "Welcome to Argentina, my friend."

This scene, with its quirky improvisational feel reminiscent of early-period Cassavettes, is just one of the surprises in store for viewers of *Assassination Tango*, an ever-so-slightly tongue-in-cheek noirish romance from the protean imagination of Robert Duvall, opening Friday.

Assassination Tango is clearly a vanity project, a film the veteran actor/writer/director thought up as an excuse to work with his girlfriend, Luciana Pedraza, but still there's much to enjoy in the oddball tale of an aging New York-based hitman, John J. (Duvall), who is dispatched by his padrone to rub out a right-wing general

associated with the disappearances of political dissidents in the '80s. As happened in life, Duvall's John J. falls for Pedraza's Manuela, and for the oddly erotic rhythms of the tango, a passion he indulges when a snag in plans prevents him from quickly dispatching his victim. Throughout, Duvall uses the gangster genre to hint at the connections between murderous impulses and the indulgence of bodily pleasure.

For 40 years in 90 films, Duvall has given us rich portraits of larger-than-life men. As if to refute critic David Thomson's belief that he "is by nature a supporting actor," Duvall has time after time upstaged the stars in biting roles with memorable lines. In *Apocalypse Now*, his lucidly insane helicopter officer mixes a love of surfing with devastating air attacks on suspected Vietcong villages, telling an incredulous Martin Sheen, "I love the smell of napalm in the morning." Duvall marvels that today's soldiers still carry this line in their greatest hits kits.

Exhibition couples

Duvall's attention to detail emerges in *Assassination Tango*'s hypnotic dancing scenes, including men together, a situation Duvall insists happens only in tango exhibitions, not in public dancing

in the very macho Argentinean society.

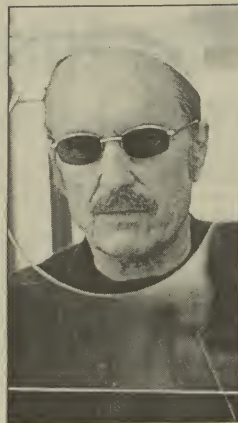
Duvall gives his hitman some prickly traits, especially an extreme sensitivity to the idea that he is getting wrinkles, leading him to attack an undercover cop. "I got that idea about the wrinkles in the face from stories about the Kray Twins in England. One guy said, 'Ronnie, you're growing fat,' so he drove across half of London and came back and said, 'What do you mean I'm growing fat?' and cut the guy's ear off."

Duvall's man's man persona has moved me to tears in two signature roles. The first is his tough-love Marine fighter-pilot dad in Pat Conroy's *The Great Santini*, where his Bull Meechum humiliates his son (Michael O'Keefe got an Oscar nomination) by bouncing a basketball off the back of his head while calling him "my best little girl." Duvall says O'Keefe asked him not to hold back, pro-

ducing, in the words of one critic, "a one-man nuclear-family Holocaust, who can do everything except express what he feels for the people he loves."

Duvall won his Oscar for the stolid alcoholic country singer Max Sledge in *Tender Mercies*, his first collaboration with writer Horton Foote. In a haunting third-act speech, Duvall's Max tells his second wife his philosophy about life's bitter fruit: "I don't trust happiness," and Duvall, still relishing the memory of his ad-lib, adds, "and I put in, 'and I never will.'"

In case you wonder if movie stars are upset with bad reviews, Duvall good-naturedly nurses a grudge against the late Pauline Kael, who acidly penned, "*Tender Mercies* is proof that a movie doesn't have to be long to be ponderous." Twenty years later, the barb still stings, but Duvall smiles as he tartly observes, "[Kael] was bright,



Duvall: always larger-than-life.

but not as bright as she thought."

He laughs recalling an ancient feud between critics. "Vincent Canby [the late *New York Times* film critic] stood there and in front of me called her the 'C' word." ▼

Opens Friday.

Phone Booth

◀ Arts cover

rektor's favorite trick: a deadly threat that surfaces while the sun is shining and everything seems right with the world. There was a moment when *Phone Booth* might have become a Hitchcock film, its central character trapped in a tight place, echoing the plots of two of Hitchcock's masterpieces, *Lifeboat* and *Rear Window*. It took Cohen 30 years to invent the plot device that keeps Stu trapped in that phone booth for a chilling 90-minute rollercoaster ride: an unseen sniper (the voice of Kiefer Sutherland) with a nasty weapon, "a 30-caliber bolt-action rifle with scope — at this range, the exit wound would be the size of a small tangerine."

For director Schumacher, Stu Shepard is the latest in a long line of male characters who are pushed to the edge of sanity by circumstances beyond their control. "Stu's a smarmy little dickhead in the beginning, who's very full of himself, and Kiefer slowly tears away layer and layer of skin. He is really naked emotionally by the end of the film."

Designing man

The most conspicuously "out" of today's top-rank Hollywood directors (he insists he was never "in"), Schumacher has a life story that reads like one of his films. Raised in a tough Long Island City neighborhood by a working, widowed mom, young Joel was a self-confessed hellion by the age of 10: drinking, smoking, injecting drugs, and indulging in his favorite vice: trips to the neighborhood movie palace, whose back door could be seen from his kitchen window. Forced to become a working teen, Schumacher studied at the Parsons School of Design, training that led him into the well-paid work of designing posh department-store windows. A good job unfortunately paid for

an even better drug habit; by 1970, Schumacher was a burned-out has-been, and it's at this point that his life took a truly miraculous turn.

Befriended by film producer (and later novelist) Dominick Dunne, Schumacher put his designing talents to good use on a string of low-budget features for directors like Herbert Ross, Frank Perry and Woody Allen. Schumacher credits Allen with being a kind of film father to him while working on *Sleeper* and *Interiors* (it was his idea for Maureen Stapleton to wear the bold red dress that symbolizes the E.G. Marshall character's break from his grim marriage).

The most autobiographical scene in a Schumacher film may be the opening of his suspenseful adaptation of John Grisham's *The Client*. Eleven-year-old Mark Sway (a compelling debut by 10-year-old Brad Renfro) is sneaking a smoke in the woods behind his Memphis home when he and his eight-year-old brother Ricky witness an attempted suicide by a sweaty Mafia lawyer. Masterfully told from young Mark's point of view, the scene unfolds like a bad dream in which all the pleasures and vices of the adult world come into focus like a bad acid trip.

Schumacher's greatest gift may be his eye for young talent. "I know much is made of the young people who I've put in their first major roles. I don't think I discovered them. I think if you met Julia Roberts at 20, or Rob Lowe at 19, or Kiefer Sutherland at 18, you would have hired them, too."

Recruit blues

His latest find, 25-year-old Dublin resident Colin Farrell, played the enigmatic Marine recruit in *Tigerland* who refuses to buckle under to military discipline, a ruthless system that has the recruits fighting each other, that really tries to destroy men in basic training. Like many

next page ►

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The thumb is back

Chopin is crushed by Murray Perahia, and buoyed up by Yundi Li

by Tim Pfaff

Even in the music industry's purported tough times, emerging new pianists remain thick on the ground. Just keeping up with the new kids on the block can be exhausting — until one like Yundi Li comes along. The Chinese pianist's new all-Chopin debut CD from DG comes in the turbulent wake of one of 2002's most written-about CDs, Murray Perahia's recording of the Chopin Op. 10 and 24 Études for Sony — and it restores hope.



MURRAY PERAHIA

Perahia's Samson-like toppling of these pillars of the piano literature is one of the most uncomfortable listening experiences of recent years. The challenge of the études is to meet their relentless technical demands while still making music. Perahia does both, but none of the many reviews I've read has mentioned how angry these high-impact pieces sound in his hands.

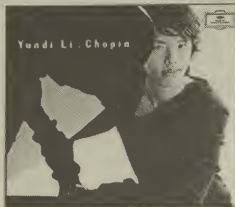
It's more artistic assault than piano-playing, and the cumulative effect is wearing rather than uplifting. Since his welcome comeback from the thumb injury that threatened to end his career in the '90s, his musical path has been puzzling. A series of Mendelssohn and Bach CDs don't

seem to have satisfied him any more than they did me. With the Études, he seems to have proclaimed, bluntly, "So there." The joyless affair feels like a laboratory report confirming that he's completely healed. Still, there's something sad about these defiant readings, which make it clear that the thumb may be back, but that something more precious, Perahia's singular sensitivity, has been traded in the Faustian bargain.

The best interpreters of this music lay into them; any pianist who takes them on their stringent own terms must. But even interpretations as trenchant as Maurizio Pollini's have brio as well as bravado. For all their deftness, Perahia's Études are brutish, a crushing rather than exhilarating experience.

Buoy watch

The three études (Op. 10, Nos. 2 and 5, and Op. 25, No. 11) on Yundi's CD make comparisons inevitable. In the Op. 10 A-minor, the younger pianist's ability to articulate each note of the rising and falling scales crisply and individually is uncanny, but saved from seeming a "stunt" by the buoyancy of the playing. The "Black Keys" Étude, too, features dazzling passagework, but it's the individuality of the jaunty accents he supplies that startle and enchant. By comparison, Perahia huffs, puffs and punches his way through the pieces. Similarly, while Perahia nails the contrasts in the Op. 25 A-minor, the almost desperate frenzy of his reading is exposed by Yundi's, which makes the shift from somber chords to moto perpetuo in a startling leap that gives way to jubilant prestidigitation that never loses sight of its goal and shivers with unbridled rhythmic freedom.



The Chopin pianist Yundi most reminds me of is the young Ivo Pogorelich. While he lacks his Yugoslav colleague's penchant for extremes of articulation and eccentricities of interpretation, he shares his monumental tone, deep reserves of power, supreme formal control, and Olympian artistic perspective. There's never a sense of his coming up to the music's demands, but rather of his playing it "from the top" — suspend-

ing the music from his fingertips rather than pounding it into the keys.

I can't think of another pianist since Pogorelich who has arrived with such consummate musicianship coupled with a fully formed artistic personality and distinctive musical voice. Yundi is another of those feral, force-of-nature talents that have added culture (in the deepest sense of the word) to the mix. Unbelieving to the point of suspicious after my first listening to the Third Sonata, which begins the CD, I subjected it to the acid test: listening to it after the recordings of Pollini, Mitsuko Uchida and Martha Argerich. I found Yundi's as complete, satisfying and individual a voice.

It's the rare "sampler" CD I can listen to front to back, but the consistency of Yundi's playing —

its arresting textural clarity, supreme rhythmic freedom, and complete command of dynamics and colors — seemed the more remarkable as followed through Chopin's "Polish" and "French" music, all of it fully idiomatic, and the Op. 9, No. 1 Nocturne, a dream.

Although its US release date is April 8, I've lived with this CD, tirelessly and with mounting wonder, since it appeared in Bangkok stores months ago. It comes without so much as a track list, and no bio whatever (but a swell gallery of pix). DG has a second, Liszt CD ready to go, but says it has no plans to release it — though that may change before Yundi's Salzburg Festival debut, playing Chopin and Liszt, this summer. One can only wonder at the music establishment. Fortunately, too, at Yundi Li. ▼

Violin meets guitar

'Schubert for Two' is out on CD

by Jason Serinus

Schubert for Two: Gil Shaham/Göran Söllscher (DG)

Eyebrows may raise at the notion of Schubert's instrumental and vocal music arranged for violin/guitar duo. But if we have come to accept Bach's music arranged for every instrument known to humankind, why not give Schubert's a try on guitar, accordion, or whistle?

This is not a collection of the profound Schubert, music that re-

flects his early knowledge of impending demise from the syphilis he contracted while still a teenager. Rather, it offers a taste of Schubert's sweeter fare. That *Schubert for Two* has "pleasant classical FM programming" written all over it does not in itself diminish its musical value.

There is sound musical precedent for some of the arrangements on this 16-selection CD. The disc's longest piece, Schubert's famed three-movement *Arpeggione* Sonata (1824), was composed so that Vincenz Schuster would have something to play on his arpeggione, a hybrid instrument invented in 1823 by Johann Georg Stauffer that is a cross between a guitar and a viola da gamba. With its six strings tuned an octave lower than the guitar's, the arpeggione was held between the knees and bowed like a cello. Though the *Arpeggione* Sonata is usually arranged for either viola/piano or cello/piano, hearing it played on violin and guitar curiously takes it both one step closer to and another step away from the work's authentic roots.

Schubert's publisher Diabelli originally issued his 15 German dances in an arrangement for



flute or violin and guitar. Whether Schubert made or sanctioned the arrangement, we do not know. But we are certain that Schubert played the guitar, published a number of his songs with guitar accompaniment, and composed a quartet for flute, guitar, viola and cello (Koch).

Shaham sounds marvelous. His Stradivarius' sound remains "old world" in the richness of its lower register and incomparable sweetness on high, but the playing, with minimal vibrato, is distinctly modern. Shaham is at his most touching in the *Arpeggione*'s lovely central Adagio.

Although Shaham's violin dominates the proceedings, Söllscher's guitar is well captured. All said, ideal for tea for two or dessert, if not as major fare. ▼

Phone Booth

◀ previous page

Anglo/Irish actors, Farrell has an uncanny ability to mimic American accents, from a soft Southern drawl in *Tigerland*, to *Phone Booth*'s rougher South Bronx cadence.

Schumacher says the DVD of *Tigerland* shows talent in the raw. "On the DVD, there's Colin's drunken audition in his apartment. [Film critic] Roger Ebert told me to put it on the DVD, he's a big fan of *Tigerland*. And you can see his audition for *Tigerland*. He's drunk, his sister's holding the videocamera, they've got these thick Irish accents. It's hilarious, and it's great that Colin said okay to putting it on."

The filming of *Tigerland* (using the same multiple-camera technique that adds to the tension

in *Phone Booth*) allowed Schumacher to return to real filmmaking after years peddling toys for AOL/TimeWarner's franchise *Batman* movies. The film may give pause to those who advocate a return to drafting young people for war. "[*Tigerland*]'s about the draft because it's set in 1971. Most of the people who are in the armed services now have chosen to be there. With the draft, people are wrenched out of a basic Judeo-Christian ethic, where they've probably been raised by their families to be gentlemen, don't be violent, be kind, be compassionate, be Christian. Then they're wrenched out of that overnight, at the age of 18 or 19, and told, 'Forget all of that, become the most violent killers on the planet, or we'll kill you.' " ▼

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BOOKS

Kramer vs. Kramer

by Jim Nawrocki

Women in Love and Other Dramatic Writings by Larry Kramer; Grove Press, \$16

Larry Kramer: Playwright, novelist, activist, icon. Kramer is one of the most accomplished gay writers of his generation, or any generation. His 1969 screenplay for the film *Women in Love* (adapted from the D. H. Lawrence novel) earned him an Academy Award nomination and a considerable reputation. His 1978 novel *Faggots*, though controversial, became a bestseller; reading it was a rite of passage for a generation of young gay men. His 1986 play *The Normal Heart* was one of the first dramatic responses to the AIDS epidemic, and perhaps the most successful. On top of these artistic achievements, Kramer helped found both the Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP.

Like the late Harry Hay, Kramer has established himself as a gay hero. He has provoked his share of controversy as a writer and activist, and as he is such a politicized artist, it's difficult to evaluate his works without responding to their resonance with "the cause." Kramer's work has often been excoriated for its political content, rather than evaluat-



ed as art. Kramer's frustrations with this curious condition come through in the essays he wrote for the new Grove Press edition of his work, *Women in Love and Other Dramatic Writings*. It is not a comprehensive volume, but rather an attempt to highlight the playwright's lesser-known works. *The Normal Heart* is not included, but *A Minor Dark Age*, a never-before-published or -performed play, is. Each work includes a brief preface from Kramer in which he explains the genesis and history of the work. These prefaces serve as a kind of guided tour of Kramer's dramatic work, and allow the present-day Kramer to reckon with

his younger self.

The centerpiece of the book is Kramer's masterful script for *Women in Love*. Pity the screenwriter charged with adapting a major piece of literature for the big screen. In addition to the technical difficulties of translating novel into film, the screenwriter must also face the literary purists who will scorn any deviation from the novel's story, setting, characters, and so on. In his preface, Kramer details all of the horrors he experienced as writer and producer of Ken Russell's film. It's a nice juicy bit of Hollywood lore, complete with behind-the-scenes intrigue and craziness. The screenplay itself retains its power. One has to admire Kramer's ability to translate the heady dialog of Lawrence's characters into such a finely-paced film. He is not afraid to hint that his influence reined in Russell's florid directorial impulses and ensured that the film remained grounded. Watching the film today, one can actually feel the creative tension between Kramer's script and Russell's direction, and the result is a movie that stands the test of time very well.

Sissy time

The remainder of the book is devoted to the scripts of three Kramer plays, *Sissies' Scrapbook* (also known as *Four Friends*), *A*

Minor Dark Age and *Just Say No*. The essays that Kramer wrote for this volume serve an almost autobiographical function. Kramer describes his disenchantment with Hollywood following his experience with *Women in Love*, and his foray into theater with his first play, *Sissies' Scrapbook* (which, he notes, began as a screenplay). The play was not a success. Although Kramer is pleased by an initial run of the play at a two-week workshop run, it is heavily rewritten and repackaged for an off-Broadway run, where it closes almost immediately.

A Minor Dark Age is a curious document. Kramer himself admits that the play, written for the actor Brad Davis, about a young man's search for love, has always been something of a mystery. "When I wrote it, I was conscious that I didn't know what the fuck I was writing," he confesses in his introduction. It's a long play, full of lyrical, dreamlike language.

The final play in the volume, *Just Say No*, is a different animal altogether, a rollicking political satire set in the Reagan Era. When it was produced, it provoked such strong, negative critical reactions that Kramer felt compelled to address his critics, and he penned an essay, included in this book with

the script, entitled, "The Farce in Just Saying No." Although the essay begins by addressing the particular issues surrounding the *Just Say No* controversy, it becomes a kind of apologia for gay theater and gay art in general. Kramer laments the state of modern theater and exhorts fellow playwrights to create work that is "about" something. Kramer's work, and his life, have clearly been "about" something, and this book is a valuable showcase of an important writer's early career. ▼

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Paul Taylor

◀ Arts cover

tame. Taylor invented some truly delicious loosey-goosey movement, and the dancers took full advantage of this opportunity to get down. Their shakes and stoned-looking steps were fully embodied, the kind of dancing that feels good to watch.

As always, Taylor's dancers were slick wizards of clean, well-rehearsed performance. You have the rare opportunity to see expertly done modern dance. This is a group that likes to show off, and it was clear that "A Field of Grass" is a dance they not only know inside and out, but like to perform. As a record of its time, the choreography was as edgeless as the sweet, nostalgic songs — no wah-wah guitar or thrashing drum solos in *this rock 'n' roll*. Even a guy spazzing out on the floor, having an apparent drug overdose, seemed to be merely a transition from one happy party to another. This was the Summer of Love, baby.

Ring of 'Fire'

"Promethean Fire" was the "serious" piece of the evening, set to Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Prelude in E flat minor, and Chorale Prelude (all the music was canned). The 16 dancers, in black candy-striped unitards, rushed around as a big musical visualization. The busy, majestic music was interpreted into a number of interesting images, like a Busby Berkeley line-up with lifts on every note, over and over again. The energy was swirling and strong, the fire was elemental, the reference to 9/11 came only in the pile of bodies on the floor at one point, and the optimistic tendency in both the music and the dance was to rise again.

Now that irony is dead, and theatre and movies, all comedies and musicals, are going to be dominated by lightness, maybe



Paul Taylor's company dancers are veterans of clear, well-rehearsed dance.

more dances will look like Taylor's. The fact of the modern dance world being headquartered in unforgiving NYC has tended to offer some pretty bleak content over the years, even in "good" times. Taylor, a distinguished American artist who has won every award including the Kennedy Center Honors, a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, and French knighthood, tends to present a rosier world view at this point in his career. His dance seems designed to attract corporate sponsorship, with smiling and sexy dancers, easy-to-get narratives, athletic dancing, and

short, diverse programs. Taylor presents easy-on-the-edge work, which can either be a relief from all the cynicism and grief flying around, or maddeningly unchallenging. Think Disney on Broadway, or Steven Spielberg, who even created a Holocaust that was watchable. It's well-crafted, well-danced entertainment. ▼

San Francisco Performances presents Paul Taylor Dance Company, through April 6 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Tickets: call 392-4400, or www.performances.org.

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Social soul singers

The Golden Gate Quartet in history

by Jason Serinus

Freedom: The Golden Gate Quartet & Josh White at the Library of Congress (1940) (Bridge)

The musical and social impact of this never-before-released performance, winner of the Indie Award for Best Historical Recording of the Year, cannot be overstated. "A Program of Negro Folk Song with Commentary," presented at the Library of Congress on December 20, 1940 as part of a four-day festival celebrating the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 13th amendment to the US Constitution, the concert stands as an example of America's double standard, a celebration of slavery's abolition in a racially segregated city which feted artists who were otherwise not allowed to sit in the front of the bus.

It was certainly a departure to present this program in an austere government venue that traditionally hosted classical concerts. Only the year before, the Daughters of the American Revolution had banned contralto Marian Anderson from performing in DC's Constitution Hall, resulting in Eleanor Roosevelt's resignation from the DAR and Anderson's triumphant performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Equally striking were spoken commentaries by Dr. Sterling Brown, a poet who delivered his message as though he were an elder statesman; Dr. Alain Locke, godfather to the Harlem Renaissance; and Alan Lomax, famed folk researcher and archivist.

The masterfully sung concert, presented intact, was performed in three parts. The first, consisting of six Negro spirituals, began with a stirring rendition of "Freedom," a song oft repeated during

the civil rights movement of the '60s. The second part featured five blues and ballads, interspersed with striking "What are the Blues" and "The Social Song" commentary by Brown. The last part, five reels and work songs, included such classics as "Old Dan Tucker" and "Rock My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

The impeccably-voiced Golden Gate Quartet was founded in 1930 when four male students at Norfolk, Virginia's all-black Booker T. Washington High

School began harmonizing in a barbershop and decided to give it a go. Originally specializing in Negro Spirituals, they later branched out to include gospel music. By the time they reached the Library of Congress, their creamy, velvety sound had led to a Victor Bluebird recording contract, a performance in Carnegie Hall, and regular, nationwide CBS live broadcasts from New York.

Josh White (1915-1969) began his singing career as a companion



and guide to a group of blind gospel and blues performers. By 1940, he had become one of the most respected solo performers in his field; recorded numerous Christian/Gospel songs, blues, and folk numbers; and shared the stage with "Ole Man River" bass Paul Robeson (a fellow freedom singer) in the show *John Henry*.

In our time of increased racial division and unjust deportation of Middle Easterners, Sterling Brown's chilling account of how the great blues singer Bessie Smith died because she could not gain admittance to a white hospital gains new meaning. Equally telling are his description of the blues as "the poor man's heart disease" and the "Negro's song of frustration," the nervous laughter accompanying his commentary, and White's moving rendition of "Silicosis Blues." ▼

Highly evolved women

Singer/songwriters with long careers and new CDs

by Gregg Shapiro

When I think of female singer/songwriters who have had the most evolved careers, Joni Mitchell is the first one to come to mind. While I didn't always agree with the directions in which Mitchell was going (i.e., the jazz foray of *Mingus*), I see now how the results of all of her experimentation have made her a more sophisticated and accomplished artist.

I mention Joni's jazz foray because I'm having a similar reaction to the direction Ani DiFranco is moving on her new CD *Evolve* (Righteous Babe). It's been 13 years since we first heard the folk/punk songs of the righteous babe herself, and DiFranco is now applying that edge to a funkier jazz sound. No stranger to horns (you can hear a trumpet as far back as "Circle of Light" on 1992's *Imperfectly*), DiFranco had a full-fledged brass section on her *Little*

Plastic Castle disc in 1998. But on the intervening discs, she has struck a balance. Still an amazing lyricist ("They say that the truth will set you free/but then, so will a lie/It depends if you're trying to get to the Promised Land/or you're just trying to get by"), DiFranco is framing her words in unexpected settings, such as the flat-out funk of "In the Way," the piano-propelled jazz of "O My My," and the bluesy moan of "Icarus." I just hope that she always puts a song such as "Slide" on her discs to let us know that she hasn't forgotten why we listened to her in the first place.

Like DiFranco, Dar Williams has her roots in contemporary folk music, and over the course of five studio albums she has moved in a more slick and commercial direction. Wisely, she has retained a sensational sense of musical humor on her new album *The Beauty of the Rain* (Razor & Tie). "I Saw A Bird Fly Away" and "Your Soul Your Fire" will delight Williams fans.

Cash out

It's been seven years since Rosanne Cash's eighth album, *10 Song Demo*, was released. As she was preparing to record the follow-up, two things happened. She became pregnant, and then she developed a polyp that affected her voice for a couple of years.

The good news is that her voice has returned, and we are fortunate enough to have her long-awaited new album *Rules of Travel* (Capitol). The contributions of four guest vocalists — Sheryl Crow, Steve Earle, Johnny Cash and Teddy Thompson — enhance these remarkable songs. Crow joins Cash on the beautiful pop of "Beautiful Pain," Earle completes the dialogue on "I'll Change for You," Cash's father Johnny is the right counterpart on "September When It Comes," and Thompson, a musical progeny like Cash, raises up "Three Steps Down." Cash also turns her unique perspective to the subject of aging ("44 Stories"), dabbles in electric country ("Closer Than I Appear"), and revises *10 Song Demo*'s "Western Wall."

Many people first heard Lisa Germano's name (and fiddle-playing) when she was the violinist in John Mellencamp's band in the '80s. As a solo artist, Germano took a more experimental path, particularly on the four dark, moody albums she released on the 4AD label during the '90s. *Lullaby for Liquid Pig* (Ineffable/iMusic) doesn't stray from the path as Germano addresses such complex issues as alcohol abuse and battling inner demons. Musical guests include Neil Finn, Wendy Melvoin and Johnny Marr. Difficult and disturbing, but worth the experience.

The Well (Music Force Media Group) is the first studio album in nearly 10 years by the underrated Jennifer Warnes. In her 35th year as a recording artist, Warnes remains best-known for her vocals on the Oscar-winning '80s theme songs to *An Officer and a Gentleman* and *Dirty Dancing*. Her devoted fans also know the diversity of her gigs, from *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* to backing vocalist for Leonard Cohen, and the acclaimed album *Famous Blue Raincoat*, on which Warnes covers the Cohen's songs. Warnes performs her own (co-)compositions and her interpretations of songs by others, including Billy Joel's "And So It Goes," "Invitation to the Blues" by Tom Waits, and Arlo Guthrie's "Patriot's Dream."

Susan Tedeschi received a Best New Artist Grammy nomination for her debut album a few years back. On her new CD *Wait for Me* (Tone-Cool/Artemis), Tedeschi polishes up her young Bonnie Raitt, blue-eyed blues sound. She returns as an impressive songwriter on songs such as the gorgeous piano ballad "Wrapped in the Arms of Another," the funky blues of "Til I Found You," the electric blues of "The Feeling Music Brings" (co-written by husband Derek Trucks), and the near-gospel of "In the Garden." Tedeschi is also a respectful interpreter of other people's songs. ▼

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Lips off her rocker

by Sweet Lips

I have been dethroned! The other Saturday at Kimo's, where I tend bar, I went to the rest room, sat on the throne, reached for some toilet tissue and wham! The whole commode crashed down, breaking apart and leaving me on the floor with water pouring on me! Fortunately, Dick Deemer was there. He got the door open and helped me up. I was soaking wet. I have a compression fracture of the first lumbar vertebra, and it should take four to six months to improve. So I am home, bedridden.

Usually at this time of year, I go to Puerto Valarta for Easter Sunday festivities. It looks like I won't be able to make it this year, being incapacitated. But Dick Deemer and Hal Mulohill will be there, so if you're down there seeking some sun and fun, be sure to look them up. They'll be at the bar



Cocktail Hour

—any bar!
My last column had a couple of names misspelled, and I apologize. The correct names are Bart Dreyer and Michael Valdez. Sorry, guys. Rumor has it that the Reflections Bar on Polk St. has been sold, but I can't say to whom until it is posted. But I understand it will be an all-new entertainment bar.

The very interesting Circle J. Cinema at 369 Ellis is still as steamy as ever, or so I'm told. I suggest you drop by sometime when you're feeling in the mood for a little hanky-panky.

Last time I checked, Club Rendez-Vous still had great bartenders on the plank, and the afternoons are getting a very entertaining crowd. I promise to drop in after I recuperate.

Mr. Lee*Ona's (formerly the Kokpit) at 301 Turk St. has some fun people, and they draw a large crowd, so give them a try.

I hope to see you all soon, and don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Saturday night when you go to bed. You don't want to oversleep and miss your morning cocktail! ▼

MUSIC

British accents

New discs from UK bands

by Gregg Shapiro

British band dominance of the US pop charts sounds like something from the past (read: the '90s), but that doesn't mean that there aren't any British bands that would enjoy the attention given to Oasis, Blur and others in days gone by.

Coldplay comes closest to being the Great Brit Hope. Their aptly titled second album *A Rush of Blood to the Head* (Capitol) supplies just that. The songs, beginning with "Politik," have the same effect as the ones on their stunning debut disc, *Parachutes*, in that they make the listener sit up and pay attention, and they profit from the presence of Chris Martin's emotive vocals.

Jarvis Cocker of Pulp has one of the most expressive voices in contemporary British pop. *We Love Life* (Sanctuary/Rough Trade) contains all the elements of a proper Pulp disc: drama, social commentary, cynicism, and sensibility. From the march of "Weeds" to the lush string-laden setting of "The Trees," Pulp deserves the chance to overcome their cult status and become full-blown superstars.

Primal Scream's *Evil Heat* (Epic) sizzles like a dance party in hell. The potent album opener, "Deep Hit of Morning Sun," which sounds like Tangerine Dream's "Sorcerer" theme on acid, will have you reaching for the sunblock and the lube. Because they've been heating things up on the dancefloor for years, Primal Scream works the beats through-

out, from the driving near-industrial propulsion of "Miss Lucifer" (which recalls late-'80s Ministry) to the stripped-down electro-clash speedometer click of the instrumental "Autobahn 66." Jim Reid of Jesus and Mary Chain lends his vocals to the hypnotic diesel fumes of "Detroit," while Led Zep's Robert Plant blows a mean harmonica on the blistering blues of "The Lord Is my Shotgun." If you'd rather be dancing, Primal Scream, with a little help from supermodel Kate Moss, reinvent Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood for the car-crash set with their hot cover of "Some Velvet Morning," and give us a glimpse of the toe-tapping future with "A Scanner Darkly."

OX4: The Best of Ride (The First Time) is a thrilling look back at a short-lived band that wrote and recorded some memorable tracks. Shoe-gazing pioneers, Ride rode the wave of noisy-pop introduced by Jesus and Mary Chain. Clashing guitars and a touch of feedback defined Ride's early sound. Towards the end of their existence, the band moved in a light psychedelic direction, which was both daring and predictable for the times, and ended up costing them their following. Ride could also create melodic pop. The bonus disc contains four previously unreleased tracks.

Past and present

Twenty years after the release of their last studio album, *The Soft Boys* have returned with *Nextdoorland* (Matador). During that time, frontman Robyn Hitch-

cock was the most visible with his multiple albums. The songs on *Nextdoorland* strike a pleasant balance between the past and present Hitchcock, and the band sounds like it picked up where it left off.

Even though they have outlasted them, Gene will forever exist in the shadow of the Smiths. With the similarities in their sound and their sexually ambiguous frontman, Gene never really had a chance to create their own identity, especially after the release of the major-label disc *Olympian*, which bore more than a passing resemblance to a Smiths album. *Libertine* (Contra/iMusic), Gene's latest album does indicate some growth, as well as echoes of the Smiths' and Morrissey's influence.

One of the most inventive full-length debuts in years, the self-titled disc by The Coral (Deltasonic/Columbia) lives up to the promise of the tease of its *Skeleton Key* EP. Once you get past the noisy stomp of "Spanish Main," you're in for a royally retro experience that recalls the moody atmosphere of Eric Burdon and the Animals, and other R&B-influenced bands of the '60s British invasion. While the garage-rock revival continues to heat up in the States, The Coral offer a musical argument for a return to the Mersey-beat sound in its homeland.

When I first heard the Bowie-meets-Beatles bang of Supergrass



Coldplay: The Great Brit Hope?

on its 1995 debut disc *I Should Coco*, I thought that both the future and the past of British pop had arrived. Equally as good, Supergrass' follow-up disc, *In It for the Money*, found the trio maturing and moving in the right direction. The band's self-titled third disc contained the wicked-fun "Pumping on your Stereo." *Life on other Planets* (Island), Supergrass's fourth full-length album, again borrows from the past and cashes in on the present, recalling T. Rex with echoes of vintage Stones.

Johnny Marr, best known for his guitar work as a member of

the Smiths, is a busy guy. He produced *Between the Senses* (Virgin), the debut disc by British quartet Haven, guided by the gorgeous voice of Gary Briggs. Marr's name is also prominent in his new band Johnny Marr + The Healers. The songs on *Boomslang* (iMusic), their debut disc, don't have much in common with the Smiths' sound, as they are more of a blues-rock nature. Marr also displays a mellower pop side. ▼

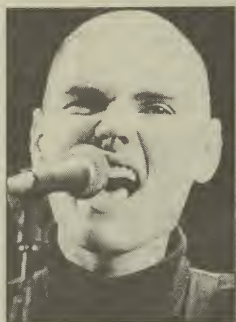
Primal Scream plays the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium on April 26.

Post-Pumpkins postcards

by Gregg Shapiro

It should come as no surprise to anyone that one-time Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan has a softer, pop-music side, because it surfaced on practically ever Pumpkins disc. He further explores that side via his new band Zwan (with ex-Pumpkin Jimmy Chamberlain on drums, Paz Lenchantin on bass and backing vocals, Matt Sweeney and Chicago post-rocker David Pajo on guitar) with their debut disc *Mary Star of the Sea* (Martha's Music/Reprise). Corgan has apparently become obsessed with '60s pop and rock music, and wanted to recreate his own version of it on this album, which has a '60s by way of 21st-century fusion feel.

The Sea and Cake's latest disc, *One Bedroom* (Thrill Jockey) arrived in stores in January, and deserves repeated play throughout the year. The artsy quartet's sophisticated and emotionally distant pop songs radiate a Spring-like warmth. See if you will be able to resist nodding your head to "Four Corners." You may also catch yourself imagining a Hex Hector remix of "Shoulder Length." The Sea and Cake's deliciously restrained cover of David Bowie's "Sound & Vision," with backing vocals by John and



Billy Corgan leads new band Zwan

Frank Navin of The Aluminum Group, would sound like heaven in your favorite nightclub, so tell your favorite DJ all about it.

If Jeff Tweedy's musical evolution from Uncle Tupelo through Wilco isn't enough for you, you might want to explore the debut of his latest side project, *Loose Fur* (Drag City). Wilco has been called many things, but "jam band" isn't one of them. Tweedy, fellow Wilco member Glenn Kotche and the versatile Jim O'Rourke have come together to explore their improvisational skills over the course of six songs. The jammiest tracks have too much post-rock sophistication to give Phish or Dave Matthews cause for alarm. ▼



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendar

by Mark Mardon

Tribalism

This weekend offers extra-fantastic queer frolics starting on Friday, April 4, when AIRspace artist-in-residence **Dhaia Tribe** will be stirring up trouble at the Jon Sims Center. Says tribe member Tommi Avicolli Mecca, the local activist who finds his main calling in the theater: "What we do as a troupe is promote peace by bringing together folks from different parts of the planet to address our issues — whether they be around racism, sexism, homophobia."

Dhaia Tribe's performance, *The Outsider in The Homeland: Tales of Arrival and Identity*, has been workshopped all season at Sims, and this Friday's event marks the culmination of the multicultural group's effort. Through vignettes and vaudeville sketches that draw on personal and neighborhood histories, the tribe looks at outcasts and outsiders, and the state of being outside. The poets and musicians of Dhaia Tribe draw on their Jewish, Polynesian, Indian, Spanish, Italian and Irish ancestries to envision a creative community built on ideals of tolerance and diversity.

"The original concept," says Mecca, "came from a show we did for APA-ure, the Asian American arts festival, about a year ago. It has queer content, of course, since two of the writers are queer, myself and John Tunui. Our director is a lesbian from Argentina." Other members of the tribe include Neela Banerjee, Colm O'Riain, Francesca Prada, Pireni Sundaralingam, and Amy Tobin.

Tickets are \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm showtime. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & South Van Ness). Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Double rockin' feature

Over at New College of California, this weekend and next, you get a double-bill of craziness as the **Experimental Performance Institute (EPI)** presents two rocking, rollicking pieces.

DRAG ATTACK! is ghosttown productions' wacky farce, set in the year 2038, when Barbara Bush, at the age of 137, is the oldest person ever inaugurated into the Presidential office, although she's a bit drunk and dragged out and presses "The Button" — annihilating all living things on earth except for people wearing wigs. Her love child Stink, former grrrl band singer and vengeful game show star, becomes the last living Diva. The madness is co-written by Dwayne Calizo and Zak Barnett. Calizo gets credit for conceiving the idea, and Barnett for directing the show.

In the same highly imaginative program, **Fudim Locomotive Industries (FLI)** director, choreographer, writer and performer Jessica Fudim and crew serve up *Cave In Cave Out*, a wild romp that sends out a rock-n-roll SOS, calling on all fierce, big hearts and strong, sweet arms to save the day. Taking part in this noisy fracas are Evra Baldinger, Charles Bocchetti, Gabriel Diamond, Frank Haines, and Erika Shuch.

Tickets are \$10-\$15 sliding (discounts for wig wearing). Showtime: 8pm, April 4-6 & 11-13. New College of California Theater, 777 Valencia St. (at 19th St.). Tix/info: 437-3487; www.epiarts.org.



Dwayne Calizo and Jessica Fudim turn up the freak factor this Friday in ghosttown's *Drag Attack!* and FLI's *Cave In Cave Out* at New College. See Calendar.

Fri 4

ArtSF

@ Balazo Gallery

"UNCAC" (u need community art centers), a benefit art opening to help ArtSF realize its goal of purchasing and converting a building in SF into a community art center. Music by Zero K, A-Hole, Casper, The FlowerShop House Band. Lots of art by really cool people. \$5 donation. 8pm-midnight. 2811 Mission St. (at 24th St). Info: 550-1108; www.ArtSF.org

Didik Nini Thowok @ Odeon Bar

"An Intimate Evening with Didik Nini Thowok," Indonesian's world class cross-gender artist, who is adept at dancing, drama, comedy, mime acting and singing. He has performed for dignitaries and received awards in Japan, Great Britain, Belgium, Germany and Indonesia. He'll perform *Gambyong*, a fertility ritual dance from Surakarta in Centra Java, Pancasila, illustrating five characters with several masks, *Beskalen Putri*, a cross-gender dance from the Malang area in East Java, and *Jepindo Walang Kekek*, drawing on Japanese dance techniques and the Indonesian two-faced mask dance. \$5. 10pm. 3223 Mission St. (at Valencia).

Sat

'Ikebana 2003'

@ County Fair Bldg.

An exhibition of Japanese style sculptural floral structures, arrangements and installations from the traditional to the avant-garde. \$5-\$7. 10am-5pm. Lincoln Way & 9th Ave., Golden Gate Park. Info: 331-3205; www.ikebana.org

'Booty'

@ Jon Sims Center

SFinX (San Francisco in Exile) and the Jon Sims Center for the Arts present "BOOTY: A Pirates Treasure," an evening of flagrant, sexy, delicious spoken word performance and pirate show tunes featuring notorious queer piratical types J'aimes, Jessica Arndt, Elizabeth Gimbel, and Melissa Spence, with hosts Celestina Pearl and Sara Moore. \$7-\$12 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Re-opening @ Mission Village Market

Grand Re-Opening: Mission Village Market, an outdoor flea market, crafts fair, produce place, world-music showcase, art exhibition, healing-arts center, skill-shares and networking locale



Jazz artist Shawn Ryan plays the Plush Room. See Sun.

in the heart of the Mission. A project of and ongoing benefit for CELLspace. 9am-4pm every Sat. Info: 643-3469; www.cellspace.org

'Queer Pulp' @ The Lighthouse, Hayward

The Lighthouse Community Center and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay present "Queer Pulp: Gay & Lesbian Paperbacks from the Good Old Days," a presentation by Susan Striker (Gay By the Bay), executive director of the GLBT Historical Society. Remember those cheap, sensational paperbacks from the 1950s and '60s, that we carried about with the covers artfully hidden from curious outsiders? Think back to *Song of the Loon* by Richard Amory, or *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall. Relive those golden days. Free (donations welcome). 2-5pm. 1217 A St., Hayward. Info:



The Mutilated Mannequins celebrate all things cut-up and mutated at Balazo Gallery. See Tuesday.

510-881-8167; email Mike at lccvoluteer@yahoo.com

Grand Opening @ mezzanine

Nightclub impresario Audrey Joseph and design innovator Patrick McNeerney team up to offer a new event space for gay art and nightlife, featuring monthly installations from local and international artists, and differently themed parties five nights per week. Tonight, dance to the sounds of DJs Jamie J and Behrouz. Enjoy the 12,000-sq. ft. venue's state-of-the-art light and sound technology. 444 Jessie. \$15 at door. 10pm opening. Be there.

Sun

TG fundraiser @ Aunt Charlie's Lounge

Ms. Felicia Elizondo presents a "Transgender Fundraiser For LGBT Community Center Transgender Steering Committee, FTMI, TG San Francisco, TG Holidays." Food at 4pm (donated by Aunt Charlie's Lounge); Lip synch show at 5pm. Raffle for prizes (1st: 2 round-trip taxi to anywhere American Airlines flies). 133 Turk St. (btwn Jones & Taylor). Tix/info: 441-2922. (Aunt Charlie's), or 865-5555, ext. 1 (SF LGBT Community Center).

LVA @ The Center

Opening reception: Lesbians in the Visual Arts (LVA) present "Depth and Distance," an exhibition of works by lesbian artists 55 and older, featuring a visual dialogue with Terry Wolverton, author of the newly published *Inherent Muse: Life and Art at the Women's Building*, her memoir of the arts activities in the LA Women's Bldg., in dialogue with artist Kim Anno. \$3-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 3pm slide lecture; 4:30-7:30pm reception with artists. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 788-6118; www.lesbianarts.org

SF Prime Timers

@ Unitarian Church

The SF Prime Timers (formerly G40+ Club) welcome writer, director, composer, theater producer John Fisher, co-artistic director of Theatre Rhinoceros, which is now celebrating its 25th anniversary and is the world's longest-running queer theater. Raffle (bring wrapped items you're willing to part with). Free. 2-4pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary). Info: 552-1997.

Shawn Ryan

@ The Plush Room

In concert: Shawn Ryan and his jazz trio, performing standards and comedy for an evening of jazz and cabaret. \$25 plus two-drink minimum. Doors open 6:30pm; show at 7:30pm. York Hotel, 940

Sutter St. (at Leavenworth). Tix/info: 885-2800.

Mon

'The Party's Over' @ New College

Modern Times Bookstore presents author Richard Heineberg, who outlines the problem faced by our world at the end of an historic era of cheap oil, and recommends ways to transition with the least harm, in *The Party's Over: Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies* (New Society). 7pm. New College of California. Info: 437-3497.

Richmond/Ermet

@ Club Fugazi

The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation presents a "One Night Only Cabaret" featuring company members from the national touring company of *The Producers*, including Lee Roy Reams, Carole Cook and Lillias White. An evening of song, dance and comedy. \$20-\$100 (plus \$25 for after-party with cast at Washington Square Bar & Grill). Tix: Beach Blanket Babylon Box Office, 421-4222. Info: www.helplineonthebay.org

Didik Nini Thowok @ Theatre of Yugen

"An Intimate Evening with Didik Nini Thowok," Indonesian cross-gender dance artist. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Also April 8th. 2840 Mariposa St. Tix/info: 621-0507; www.theatreofyugen.org

Qi Re Kiki Ching

@ 22/23 Restaurant

Opening reception: "Inside Out: Nature, Spirit, and Materiality," featuring paintings by Qi Re Kiki Ching, whose work is about the outer manifestation of the inner spirit. Ching, originally from Honolulu, has lived in San Francisco for more than 20 years, and received his MFA from the SF Art Institute. Curated by Gregg Cassin. Free. 5-7pm. 2223 Market St. Dinner reservations: 431-0692

Tue

Inti Illimani

@ Zellerbach Hall

Cal Performances presents Chilean multi-instrumentalists Inti Illimani, the legendary Latin American folk and nueva canción ensemble, performing songs of hope, struggle and inspiration in Spanish, Italian and Andean dialects. This group fled Chile in 1973 when presidente Salvador Allende was deposed, making Italy their new home until returning to Chile in 1988. Their humanitarian work earned them a Human Rights Award from UC Berkeley in 1997. \$28 & \$36. 8pm. UC Berkeley cam-

pus, Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley. Tix/info: 510-642-9988; www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

Del LaGrace Volcano @ JSCA

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSCA) presents "A Spectacular Specimen," a presentation by Del LaGrace Volcano, who for the past 15 years has been photographing gender variant/hermaphroditic/intergendered bodies, including his own, as heroic role models rather than victims of their "condition." \$7-\$12 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Mutilated Mannequins @ Balazo Gallery

From the glamour sci-fi and horror underworlds come the Mutilated Mannequins to stage a rock and post-industrial revolution. Mannequin Loki (chainsaws) and Mannequin Sharpe (lamenting sci-fi grand piano) are lead by Master Mannequin Lamar (soprano shrieking and cutting). The mannequins are on a mission to save the underworld from the hostile takeover being instigated by the unmutated, those who don't need the underworld for their very survival. Join the fight. The war for the existence of the mutilated. Also playing: Split Me Wide Open (NYC) and The Boy Explodes. \$5. 9pm. Balazo Gallery, Mission & 24th. Info: mutilatedmannequins.com

HIFY @ Quan Yin Healing Arts Center

Health Initiatives for Youth (HIFY) presents "Substance Use & Youth," a training workshop offering an overview of youth substance use including harm reduction theory, an analysis of messages youth receive about drugs, an exploration of the context in which youth make decisions about substance use, etc. 9am-5pm today, and 9am-1pm Wed., April 9 (11 hours total). 455 Valencia St. Info: 274-1970, x27; www.hify.org

Wed

'How to Host a Seder' @ Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Does a Passover service (seder) seem overwhelming? Join Garry Koenigsberg, Teacher of Jewish Technology, for an educational and fun evening. Learn preparation, focusing of the ceremony, choosing a Haggadah, and preparing the seder table. Open to all. Free for members; \$18 non-members. 7pm. 290 Dolores St. Info: 861-6932; www.shaarzahav.org

'Gender Pirates' @ 26 Mix

Gender Pirates, a new club (2nd Wed. of each month) for trannyboys & girls, genderqueers, punks, queers, genderfreaks, and anyone who views gender as having more than two options. All-Genres Cheerleading Show, Tranny Boxing Ring, spontaneous strippers, hairy tits contest, and more. DJs Cari Campbell and Sam Davis spin '80s and punk rock. \$3 cover. Located at 26th and Cesar Chavez at Mission. Info: www.26mix.com

Thu

LIT @ JSC

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts and "LIT @ JSC" present Michelle Tea and Rickie



Indonesian cross-gender artist Didik Nini Thowok appears around town at the Odeon Bar, Theatre of Yugen, and the 'N Touch. See Friday, Monday and Thursday.

Lee. Tea is the author of three autobiographically-based novels, the *Passionate Mistakes*, *Intricate Corruption of One Girl in America*, Valencia, and *The Chelsea Whistle*. Lee is a midwestern native in SF who has spent many years doing freelance porn in front and behind the camera, and a member of the hip-hop group The End of The World. \$7-\$12 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

'Queer Photo Salon 2' @ The Center

The Harvey Milk Institute presents "Queer Photo Salon 2," curated by Chloe Atkins, bringing audiences and photographers from different backgrounds together at the

same event to learn from and appreciate each other's work. Featuring Chloe Atkins (*Girl's Night Out*, St. Martin's Press, 1998), a freelance photographer since 1979 who has created over 25,000 studio-quality photographs of the lesbian and gay community; Roberta Almeraz, a writer and photographer living in SF; Ann P. Meredith, who documents women and aging and women in traditional and non-traditional jobs, along with pop culture, political leaders and society, and today's redefinition of gender and sexual identification in the drag king culture; and Kalle Pieper, who studied art therapy at the Antroposophische Freie Kunststudienstaette in Ottersberg, Germany. His first photo book, *Sango*, is a study in nude portraiture of

the intersections of masculinity and African men. \$8-\$15 sliding. 7:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: www.harveymilk.org

'7-inch heels' @ SFSU

San Francisco State University's Queer Alliance presents the third annual "7-inch heels and a microphone," a drag show and cabaret featuring the Disposable Boy Toys, comedian Maureen Brownsey, Celestial Haze, and many other performers. This event raises money for the Queer Alliance and the Cindy Kolb AIDS Foundation. \$5 students; \$7 general. 7pm. Cesar Chavez Student Center, Jack Adams Hall, SFSU, 1600 Holloway Ave. (at 19th Ave.). Info: Michelle, 338-1952; userswww.sfsu.edu/~queer

Didik Nini Thowok @ 'N Touch

Indonesian cross-gender dance artist Didik Nini Thowok makes a guest appearance at this famed gay Asian bar. \$3. Door opens 9pm. 1548 Polk St. Info: 441-8413.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.



Meditative paintings by Qi Re Kiki Ching adorn the wall of 22/23 Restaurant. See Monday.

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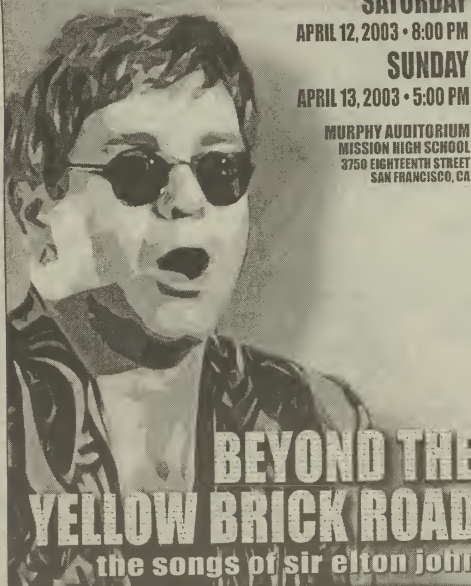
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Marching to a new beat

Two ex-Drummer Boys win titles

by Mister Marcus

Stephen Blackwell, a former Southern California Drummer Boy, won the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2003 title, and Mark Nunley, a former Northwest Drummer Boy, won the Mr. Washington State Leather 2003 title last Saturday night, March 29. There was leather action galore from Seattle to Los Angeles as hundreds of leather enthusiasts were on hand to witness the triumph of two very deserving young men.

In Seattle, Mark Nunley ran unopposed for his title, but of course he had to get a certain percentage of the available points to prevail. Obviously, he had little trouble with that challenge.

In Los Angeles, Stephen Blackwell competed for the title with eight other men who were all well-versed, well-spoken and well put together in all areas of the competition.

In Seattle, Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, who served as a judge, was also honored with Seattle's most prestigious honor — the National Emerald Award, an honor bestowed in the past on some of the leather community's most outstanding personalities. Congratulations are in order for a very deserving member of our leather tribe.



Stephen Blackwell was chosen Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2003 in the competition held last Saturday, March 29 at the El Rey Theatre in Los Angeles. He advances to compete at IML 2003 in Chicago next month.

Big LA doings

The Los Angeles Leather Coalition managed to garner a crowd of some 500 people in the beautiful El Rey Theatre just a few short blocks from the beginning of the Miracle Mile (Wilshire Boulevard) in a tonier section of Los Angeles. It was a "who's who?" night with "I've beens, I wanna be's, I was, I hope to be, and I'll Never Stop Trying" personalities and hordes of leather people from as far away as Germany.

The second runner-up in Los Angeles was Rob Roberts (Mr. Sisters Leather), and the first runner-up was Terry Demby (Mr. Ashram West Leather), in a competition that included bear men. An added delight for the audience was an aerial/trapeze exhibition by two young men in an excellently executed display of gymnastics high above the crowd. Their show elicited more than one standing ovation. Another burst of applause came when "Louis" sang the national anthem a capella.

It was a great evening — the result of the Los Angeles Leather Coalition capability to please the audience. And of course, Mr. This and Mr. That were there with sashes and title vests while judges Dr. Tony Mills, RTB Rich Trevino, Marci Shrager, Hillary Williams, IML

Stephen Weber, International Sir Dale Breunig, Kent of Arnwolt Haus and outgoing Mr. L.A. Leather Don Anspauch pondered their scores. Daddy Don's step-aside speech was a mere 11-minutes long, thanking hordes of people and not skipping a beat. The audience

held its breath as, preceding his message, Daddy Don came on the stage in a latex outfit and promptly donned what looked like almost 5-inch patent leather heels. It was a great experience witnessing the audience hoping a strong wind didn't come in to blow Don over. But he did make it through the sequence and managed to sash his successor without falling down. Camp. We all love camp!

A special tribute was given to Shawn Farnsworth, the honcho of the Faultline Bar, for his support and encouragement in the early years of the LALC and his continuing strong support.

Stephen Weber, soon to be a wuzzie, gave a stirring six-minute speech and admitted he fell in love with Los Angeles and would return. It was a great night in Los Angeles, and if you missed it, sorry you couldn't make it.

Seattle was also a mammoth next page ►



Leather

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 3

Mr. November 2004 will be chosen tonight for the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar at 2130. Judges are Mike Romero, Rod Wood, James Scott Geras and Patrick Batt. Only one more contest after this one!

Weekend, April 4-7

In Hayward, the Alameda County Leather Corps stages Bear Weekend with a Briefs, Boxers & Bears at Club Rumor on Friday night; On Saturday, the Mr. Alameda County Bear competition at the Turf Club and on Sunday again at the Turf Club Baskets, Bonnets and Bears Brunch. Sounds like a ton of fun to me!

Friday, April 4

Stompers sponsors Boot Night at the Loading Dock from about 2100 to closing. If you're into boots (i.e., wearing them or licking them), this is the ONLY place to be!

Saturday, April 5

Grand opening of mezzanine at 444 Jessie (behind the old US Mint), San Francisco's newest dance venue by Audrey Joseph, quite possibly the best

dance club operator in the country! Don't miss this one!

Tuesday, April 8

Bondage Buddies get all tied up at 933 Harrison tonight if you're into the rope game. Doors open from 2100 to 2300. Call 777-HEAD.

Wednesday, April 9

After 9 years, the LURE in New York closes for good due to urban redevelopment. If you're in the vicinity, it's the place to be!

Weekend, April 11-13

7th Annual Leather Leadership Conference "Forging Links-Strengthening Ourselves" at the Boston Park Plaza in Beantown. For more information, click on www.leatherleadership.org/LLC7/index.htm.

Thursday, April 17

The final one: Mr. December 2004 on the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar at the Powerhouse at 2100. Judges: Dax Berg, Joe Wagenhoffer, James Scott Geras and Audrey Joseph. Be there for the finale!

PORN

Keeping it real

Titan's 'ManPlay' series packs the heat

by John F. Karr

In Titan's *ManPlay* series, there's no plan of action except an all-action plan. They call it Reality Sex. They've gone out of their way to keep things real, which basically means spontaneous. And the more spontaneous sex is, the more heat, the more emotion, the more effectiveness.

All the Titan masterminds do is get everything ready — rigging some lights in a warehouse that's furnished with a pair of adjoining leather-topped pedestals, and letting loose a carefully picked bunch of sexy and horny guys — and then just get out of the way.

Or try to: the cameramen occasionally get caught in view. But what the hey, that just shows how freewheeling and unstaged the action is. There's no director meddling with who he wants to put what where, no plot points that have to be enacted, and best of all, none of that constant stopping and starting of the shoot that so kills the flow and spontaneity of an orgy. It's a

simple formula that works out fine, largely because in Titan's hands, real does not mean amateur. The series has the high-quality look and sound that are the Titan standard. With solid backing, the guys get to make out like mad at nonstop sex parties that put you right up-close and in the action.

Most of the guys are in front of the camera for the first time: that's part of the "real." True, you'll recognize a porn pro here and there, but the goings-on certainly don't rely on their goosing. What's more curious is that most of these newcomers are so gonzo I'm surprised they don't go pro subsequently. They run an unusually satisfying gamut of types and ages. Thanks to Titan for pairing exotic mixes of street punks and skaterboys with musclemen and daddies. And the tasty ethnic spread can't be beat. Check out the names: César, Antonio, Mauricio, Blak, Diego, and Xavier are mixed in



Buck and grizzled Alexandros share some spontaneous sexplay.

with Billy, Kurt, Sean and Parker. Their personal styles mix things up excitingly: tattoos, piercings, muscles, and cockrings contrast with clean-cut. And if you're queer for hair, like me, you'll freak for the redheads, bleach blondes, salt 'n' peppered, and longhaired vs. the shaved and skinhead.

Titan men frequently have hairy chests,

and not too infrequently a teasingly shaved crotch.

Beef on the hoof

Things started out pretty hot, but the series seems to only get better. I took a tumble into unending lust during *ManPlay 003*, which introduced both beefy Buck and superbly hung Fyer Fli. Lean Mr. Fli is slyly lascivious; he snarls while smiling. What a good time this slithery dude has, topping one minute and then sliding his ass down onto a pole for some hearty riding. Then there's the rowdy playing and uncommon beauty of Buck, a well-upholstered musclemen with fat cock and wide chrome cockring, whose humpy muscles are slathered in the creamiest white flesh.

Fyer Fli is back in *ManPlay 004*, an even more rousing bout, which starts in the john with some sleazy glory-hole action before moving back to the standard warehouse setting. Highly ripped

Tony Scalia is in this one, and newcomers include the fierce young Sean (now getting better-known with his last name, Paris) and the starkly shaved Nicholas. After that, everything explodes in *ManPlay Xtreme*, which promises slings, dildos, gloves and piss, and delivers way beyond one's heated expectation. True, Steve Pierce isn't a newcomer, but you've never seen the hair-raising extent of the dildo and fist action he takes on here. Throw in that delicious Buck sharing a double-ended dildo with grizzled Alexandros, torrents of piss, and a double-fisting session that's absolutely heinous, and you've got two hours of the filthiest pig party around.

ManPlay 005 may take us back to non-kink, but it features an amazing group that is bound tightly together in a constantly morphing orgy that boils through uncountable orgasms before ending in a gangbang of the most fuckable boy of 2002. The extravagant sex of this movie most enjoyably introduces us to Joe, a long-haired biker with a tattoo over his rump that reads "Sex Addict" (and whose behavior illustrates it), and Johnny, a skinny kid with a huge salami who's a real butt-pirate. *ManPlay 006* features a blonde babe bottom submitting to all comers, who include gorgeous Fabian and Dante Foxxe. When what you want is just the sex, reach for *ManPlay*. ▼

www.Titanmen.com;
(800) 360-7204

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

leather extravaganza that played out in the Cuff Complex. I did not get the list of judges, but besides Mark Nunley for the male title, two women (just plain "Patty" and "Panther") competed for the Ms. Washington State Leather title and when the votes were counted, "Panther" took the title and the sash.

For all intents and purposes, these two contests were the last of the biggies for the IML 2003 "season." There may be a couple of more contests but the bulk of the title races are done and Chicago awaits the Class of 2003. Stay tuned.

Another bare chest winner

Only three men stepped forth for the October 2004 spot on the *SoMa Bare Chest Calendar* — Engracio Clemena, Richard Smith and Mike Williams. They faced judges Julian Marshburn, Ross

Dierking, Corey Caballero and Bob Brunson last Thursday, March 27. It was a spirited exchange all evening and the crowd was enthusiastic.

When all the judges' votes were tallied, Engracio Clemena emerged the winner and will grace the October spot on the 2004 calendar. During the evening, a rep from the DC Boys of Leather was on hand to receive a check for \$2,365 toward the Bryan Mullikin fund from the efforts of the SF Boys of Leather. This is quite possibly the biggest contribution to that fund to date.

On the march for Mr. SFL 2004

It's official. Judges are confirmed. The master of ceremonies is confirmed. And Mama's Leather Man 2004 will be chosen on Wednesday, June 18. The winner will compete for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 title on Saturday night, Sept. 27, the night before the Folsom Street Fair. At

this writing I am not sure if Daddy's, the Edge, Powerhouse, Loading Dock or Marlena's will field contestants for the event. Stay tuned.

In closing, be reminded that San Francisco's hottest new dance venue, mezzanine, opens on Saturday night, April 5 on Jessie St. and 5th. Audrey Joseph has been working relentlessly to get it open for your dancing pleasure. See you there?

Hot new website

While in Los Angeles, I learned of a hot new web site for those of you who may be into voyeurism. It's called "The Stud Next Door" and is quite the rage in certain circles around the country. Created by Scorp 15 videos, it's the first all-male website to successfully integrate Windows high-speed "streaming" technology with a custom pay-per minute billing system. You really should check it out. Just click on www.studnextdoor.com for all the hot details. Tell them I sent you! ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

"Missed Connections!"

Giancarlo the hairdresser. We used to date but lost contact with you. I used to have the cats. Would like to see you again. My name is Marc. ☎ 72465

Howard- We Met At 14th Street
House on Winter Solstice, exchanged numbers, but your was missing. Our would be a serviceable relationship. ☎ 72466

Market Street Safeway 3/6 5:30
You- white t-shirt, very handsome, great smile, slid bank card wrong way. Me- behind you in line, glasses, g/tee, black jacket. Would love to meet. Maybe coffee? ☎ 72467

"1984"

3/7- We shared a seat on Bart. You were reading 1984, I got off at MacArthur. ☎ 72468

"Brandon/ Palo Alto"

We met at Stud 3/8. You disappeared when we were at "My Place". Let's continue the tour. Michael ☎ 72469

"Where Are You Billy?"

Whatever happened to Billy Harris? Please call- Thank you. ☎ 72480

Fri 3/14 5:40pm Embarcadero Bart Station
We disembarked at Glen Park. I said hi, you cute Asian guy, me White guy with NY cap. My apologies for not asking you out. Wanna give me another chance? ☎ 72481

"Missed Connection Sunday 3/16"
Friendly smiles @ Sweet Inspiration/ Fillmore Street. You walking down stairs w/cap and friend- me seated w/friend @ table. Should have said hello- want to try again? ☎ 72482

Shattuck Cinema 3/22 9:35p.m.
Movie "View From the Top". Ta's male college couple sitting in back. I was two seats away. Wanted to say hello after, but too shy. Would like to be friends to both of you. Pls call. ☎ 72497

3/21 - Briazz Van on Fell - 12 noon
Hot blond driver. Cruised me as you circled block 3 times. I was late for appointment, otherwise would have stopped. Leave message on how to contact you. ☎ 72498

3/19 Wed. Embarcadero Cntr 1pm
You'd just left Banana Republic. I was walking with co-worker. Shared a great smile. My other friends said you turned around right after I'd done the same. Let's Hook up. ☎ 72499

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

SWGM In Seek Of SWGM

20-35 years old in Ukiah area, who is looking for a long-term relationship. He should be clean cut, loves to dance and someone to show me a good time. ☎ 72470

GLM Seeking Black Or Mulatto
44yrs. 5'5"/125lbs smooth masculine work out small tight butt. Athletic body HIV+ healthy. Seeks Bk or Mulatto for hot sex possible relationship. ☎ 72471

Masc Skate-Board Bottom Guy
GLM 38yrs 5'07/153lbs. muscular body bottom smooth masc. tight butt seeking any race height/weight proportion 25 to 40, cool attitude @ 6'7" inch for friendship, fun. Versatile or top N/D or fems. ☎ 72472

Sonoma Co. Top
Handsome HIV- 6ft, 175, 51, good shape hung seeks bottom buddy for every weekend long sessions- Be in shape 25-40, Bk A+ don't wait. ☎ 72485

Asian Bottom Seeks Muscular...
Top!, 18-35. I'm 29, 5'5"; 120lbs fit, smooth, athletic, toned, and extremely goodlooking, fine, cute, and attractive! Prefer White. ☎ 72486

"Candlelight Dinner"

Followed by a naked embrace, a sensual shower together, and gentle erotic lovemaking. Slender masculine guy looking for the same. I'm 44 and prefer you be younger or same age. ☎ 72473

IUncut,Hung-9,Hairy,Masc, Musc,HIV+ GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, moustache/ goatie, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "triple work", verbal, light S&M, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on East Coast, visiting S.F. May/June. Nude photo required, butt photo get mine. I am HIV+ / ok! ☎ 72483

Middle Aged GWM

6'-200lb daddy wantabe with dark hair & moustache. Honest, spiritual, open-minded, easy to live with. I like gardens, cooking, dogs, weekend trips. Looking for younger (28-36) G.M. any race, mature, with similar ideas about living, who likes to lean house. ☎ 72484

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Seeking Indo-American, South
Asian oral bottom. Preferably hairy and hung for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok but mostly j/o, etc. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups tits, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72474

Visiting 03/22-29

Partners, early 60's, staying in Castro at Beck's, seek other mature singles or couples who, like us, are height/weight proportionate, and STD free, for play. Also would enjoy light BD/SM if you have dungeon. Tops and "versatiles" particularly appreciated. ☎ 72475

Getting A Late Start

G.W.M. 57- 6'1", 200lbs. fantasized about S&M for years, now ready to meet a single or couple willing to show me, then show me off. C.B.T., hanging around, S&M party, all sound great. ☎ 72476

You Suck I Stuff

Italian, 52, 5'7", medium build, HIV-neg. 7.15x5" cut, low hangers, seeks aggressive cocksucker with an insatiable mouth and lots of stamina for long sessions. Your place. ☎ 72477

Latino Seeking Black

Me 40's 5'5" slim smooth masculine bottom nice body work out healthy poz seeks Black nice body for hot sex-play safe cool attitude possible relationship. ☎ 72478

Novice/Curious Nudist (?)

Preferably but not mandatory, hairy and hung for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok but mostly j/o, etc. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups tits, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. Like to explore being nude with another man w/o the pressure of performing in anal/oral manner. ☎ 72487

"Bondage!"

Slim and hairy or smooth men needed to explore erotic and sensual aspects of bondage. No fat or fems please- From mild to heavy. ☎ 72488

Desires Thicked Cock Average

/masculine guy. Heavy intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok. Your place, pm only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 72506

Hot Bods

Student photography wants to shoot some hot studs for my portfolio. Show me your stuff and have fun. Nice butts a plus. Love to rim!! ☎ 72489

Smooth Slender Cocks Wanted!

G/W/M, 6'1", 200lbs is seeking a group of well hung slender and smooth guys. Let's get together so that you can take turns fucking me! ☎ 72490

Ball Worshipper

Seeks long low loose hangers w/unclumsized dick for kissing, licking, sucking, stroking to orgasm. Be very smooth, clean shaven, submissive, moaner. Feed me your hot sweet throbbing balls. ☎ 72491

Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175lbs, seeks well-built bottom with nice, round ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 72492

SouthBay Bearish Landscape Cont.

Educated, fun, travelled, 6' blind, blue, 44yr hairy, moustache, 190, HIV-, seeks GWM HIV- 32-46 masculine, open, honest, smart, big armed buddy for camping, hot spring making out in the wilderness, cuddling, oral sex, friendship sense of humor, adventure, world travel maybe more! ☎ 72493

Sub seeking Dom Black Top

Boysish sub, 41, white 5'6", 150lbs seeking DOM Black top for an ongoing playmate. Seeking training and guidance through restraints, toys, verbal, etc. ☎ 72500

Horny GWM Seeks Same

I kick back for long, slow suck worship. If you are hung (real inches or more) reciprocation or 69 possible. Me-41, 5'11", 185 lbs, hairy, muscular, bm/hzl, HIV-Poz, 7 real inches. You hairy A+, h/wt proportional. ☎ 72501

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BM, muscular, masculine, hung, good looking. Seeking to service hung males 21-50. Italians/Latinos a plus. Bi OK. Satisfaction guaranteed. All replies will be answered. S 72502

Hot Passionate East Bay Bottom

39 year old WM 5'9", 150lbs, Blond, swimmer's build, 8". Open to most scenes. Looking for Top Men for hot sex. Possible relationship can travel to SF. ☎ 72503

Black Top seeks Bottom to Plow

Masculine Bk top, 6'1", 225+ lbs seeks total submissive to fuck. Be clean shaven, smooth all over, HIV-. ☎ 72504

Seeking Senior to Fuck My Face

Masculine WM seeks over 65 WM to grab back of my head and suck my face, stopping short and finishing by shooting your load on my face. ☎ 72505

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Asshole Buddy Wanted!!

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GWM 52 5'9" Average Build Med

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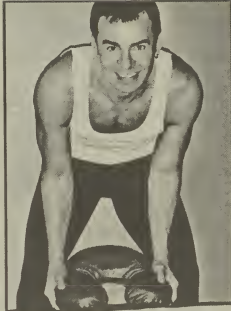
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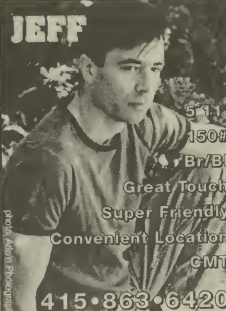
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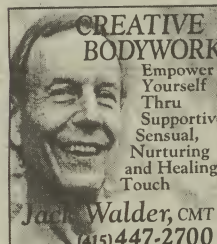
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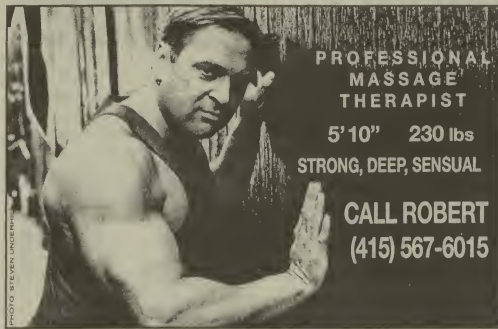
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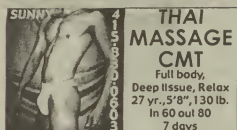
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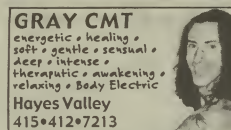
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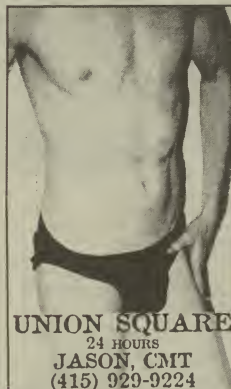
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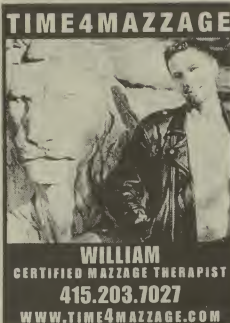
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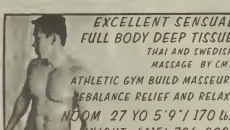
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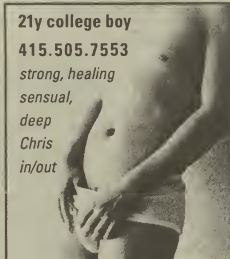
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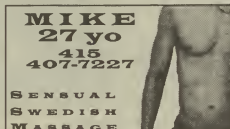


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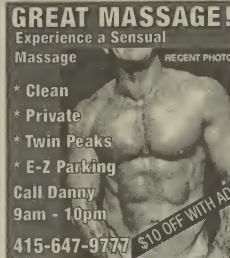
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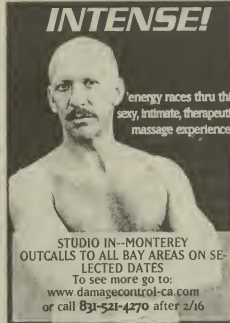
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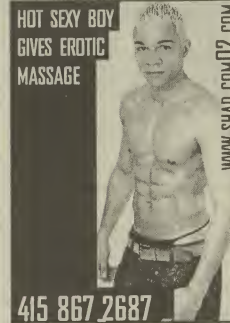
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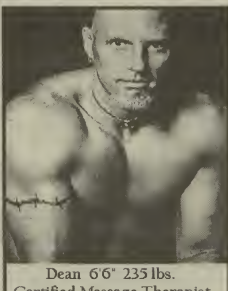
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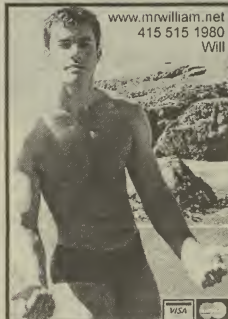


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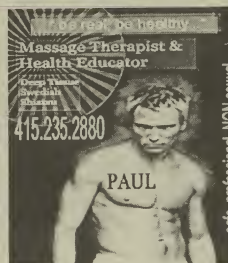
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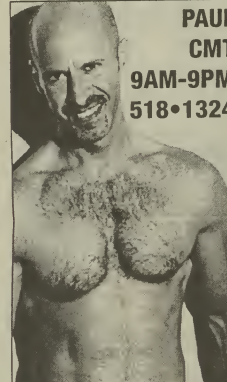
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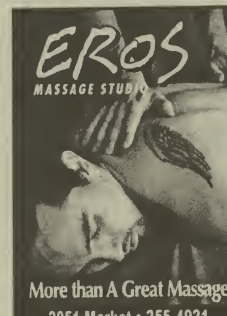
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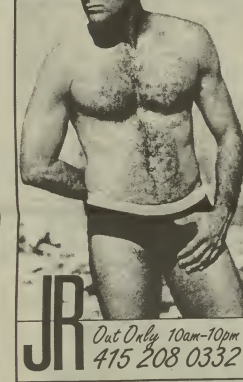
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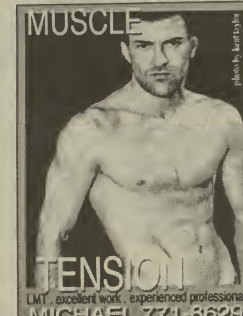
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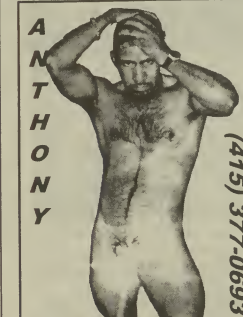
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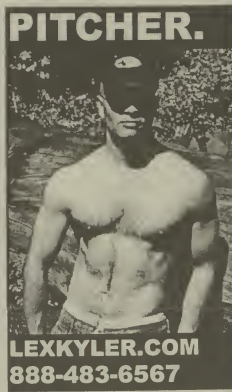
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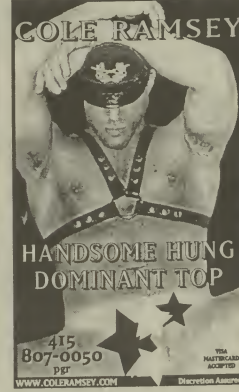
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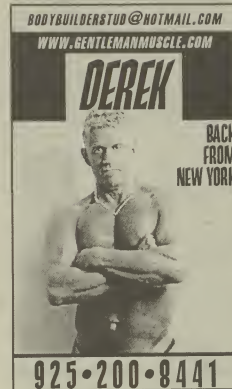
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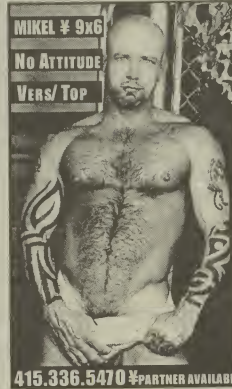
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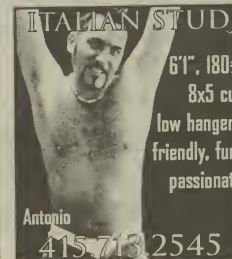


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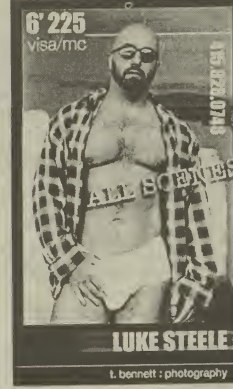
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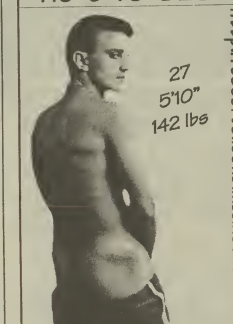
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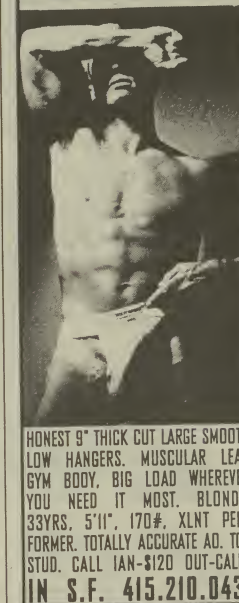


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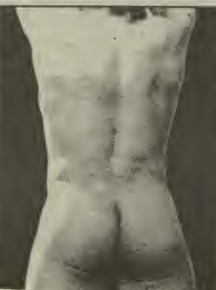
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seeks slim hung Wmale 40yrs+ for mutual oral 69. 415.731.0302 Eves. E14

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BAD BOYS SPANKED
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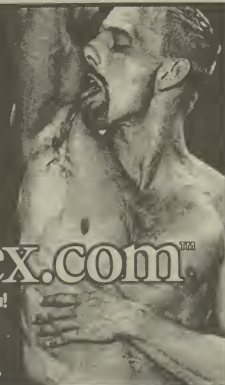


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HEALTHY PENIS IS A GUEST ON KQED'S
"FORUM" WITH MICHAEL KRASNY.

OUR FIRST CALLER IS BOB
FROM SAN FRANCISCO.
GOOD MORNING.

HI, HEALTHY
PENIS!

HI, BOB.

I'M HIV NEGATIVE,
AND I JUST DON'T
SEE WHY SYPHILIS
IS A BIG DEAL.

HAVING SYPHILIS MAKES
IT 2 TO 5 TIMES
EASIER FOR YOU TO GET
HIV WHEN YOU HAVE SEX.

ALSO, IF YOU DON'T GET TESTED REGULARLY,
YOU COULD HAVE SYPHILIS AND NOT KNOW IT.
AFTER A WHILE, IT CAN CAUSE PERMANENT
DAMAGE TO YOUR HEART AND BRAIN.

BOB, GET OFF
THE PHONE AND
GET BACK IN
THIS SLING!

(AHEM)...WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE BOB
IS PRETTY BUSY. LET'S MOVE ON TO
FRANK IN LIVERMORE...

BE SAFE,
BOB!

Syphilis is spread by "skin-to-skin" contact, through anal, vaginal AND oral sex.
Many people don't notice the symptoms or know they have syphilis.
The initial sore is painless. The good news is syphilis is easily cured.



GET TESTED FOR SYPHILIS

www.healthypenis2003.org 415.487.5580

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